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NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS

NOW OR NEVER

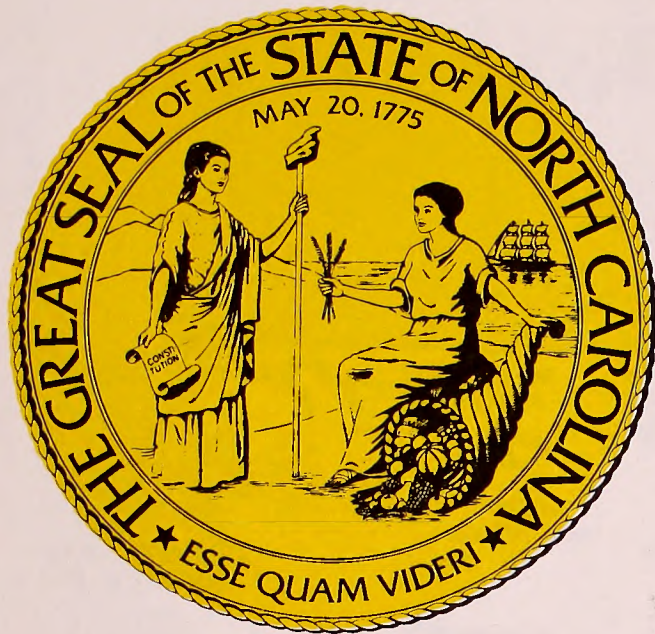




"The demand today for recreational facilities throughout our state is staggering. With more leisure time afforded our citizens and an ever-increasing public on the move, it is imperative that we give our State Parks a priority when it comes to spending our tax dollars."

"Preservation of our natural environment is most important and through the expansion of our State Park System we can help preserve this precious natural countryside."

Governor James Holshouser



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
AND
ECONOMIC RESOURCES

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

THOMAS C. ELLIS, DIRECTOR

Opposite: Mt. Mitchell in winter
from the Blue Ridge Parkway

NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS **NOW** OR **NEVER**

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WE STILL HAVE SOME CHOICE AREAS LEFT...



Currently Proposed Areas*

*(see appendix "A" for further details)

ARE WE GOING TO ALLOW THEM TO BE LOST?

North Carolina has a big decision to make, and it must be made *SOON*. Time is *NOT* on our side. Land costs are increasing at phenomenal rates. Several of our most outstanding projected areas are in imminent danger of being destroyed. Others have already been altered beyond all hope, or are no longer available to the public in their natural state. Once a prime park or natural area is strip-mined, subdivided, clear-cut, or otherwise developed, its unique natural or scenic features are lost. Present and future generations are deprived of their rights to experience nature's splendors. Thus, if we are going to protect these outstanding areas, we must do it *NOW* for we may *NEVER* have the opportunity again.



PURPOSE OF THE PROJECTED STATE PARK SYSTEM

The purpose of the projected North Carolina State Park System shall be to serve the people of North Carolina and their guests by:

1. Designating, preserving, and interpreting State Natural Areas.
2. Establishing and conserving State Park Areas.
3. Establishing and operating State Recreation Areas.*
4. Perpetuating the State Park System, not only for the inspiration and benefit of the present generation, but also for generations to come.
5. Preserving, protecting, portraying and interpreting fauna, flora, geology and all other natural features and processes occurring within the various areas of the State Park System.
6. Locating the various units of the State Park System across the State in such a manner as to best meet the need and demand for preservation, conservation and recreational use of the State's natural resource heritage.¹

*Establishing and operating State Recreation Areas is a projected goal of an expanded State Park System. The present system includes 17 park areas and 2 natural areas, but no recreation areas have been officially established.



Our State's population increases more and more each passing day....



And, with this increase in population comes the need for additional outdoor recreational opportunities for North Carolinians and their guests.



However, people also need housing, which utilizes thousands of acres in our State...



and, they need farmland, which takes up millions of acres....



In addition, people need places in which to earn a livelihood....



and, means of transportation to get where they're going....



People need schools in which their children can learn....



People even need places in which to dump their junk!



and, places to shop for the necessities of life....

LAND GOING GOING GONE!

Unfortunately, the most ideal scenic or recreational sites are usually ideal for these uses as well as others. For example, logging and strip-mining often clash with recreational uses. Whenever such conflicts occur, scenic and recreation sites ordinarily submit to higher priorities. As a result, more and more outstanding potential park sites are eliminated each year. Nationwide, over one million acres succumb to land development annually.² How long can we afford to allow this process of elimination to continue?



As our inventory of outstanding natural, scenic, and recreational sites decreases each year, all hope is lost for their preservation. Delaying action merely increases the possibility of commercial development so that eventually we will only have relatively inferior sites from which to choose...if any!

In past years Beech Mountain, Grandfather Mountain, Lake Tahoma, Big Savannah, the western half of Bogue Banks, and Baldhead Island were all promoted as prime State Park sites. The failure of funds to materialize, however, destroyed all hopes in each and every case for a State Park.*

At present, at least one-third of the proposed areas are imminently threatened by loggers and developers and, several others are likely to follow in their wake within a few years.

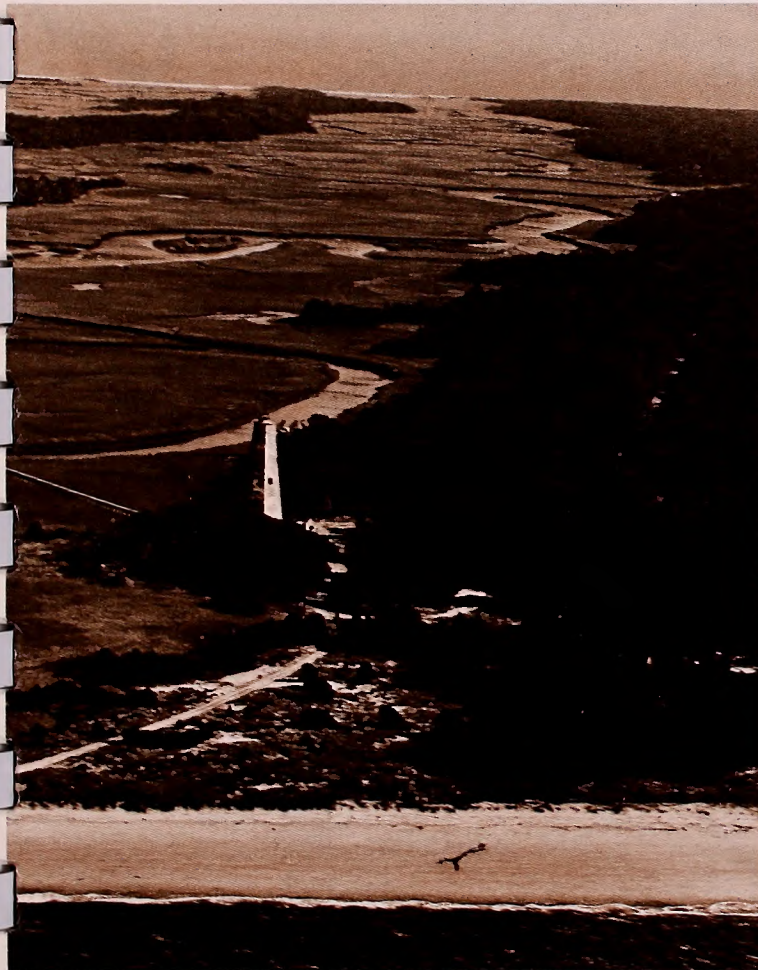
Another victim of circumstances; these bulldozed dunes on Bogue Banks are part of what was, at one time, a potential State Park site. Prime park and natural areas are quite often prime development sites as well.

*(see appendix "B")

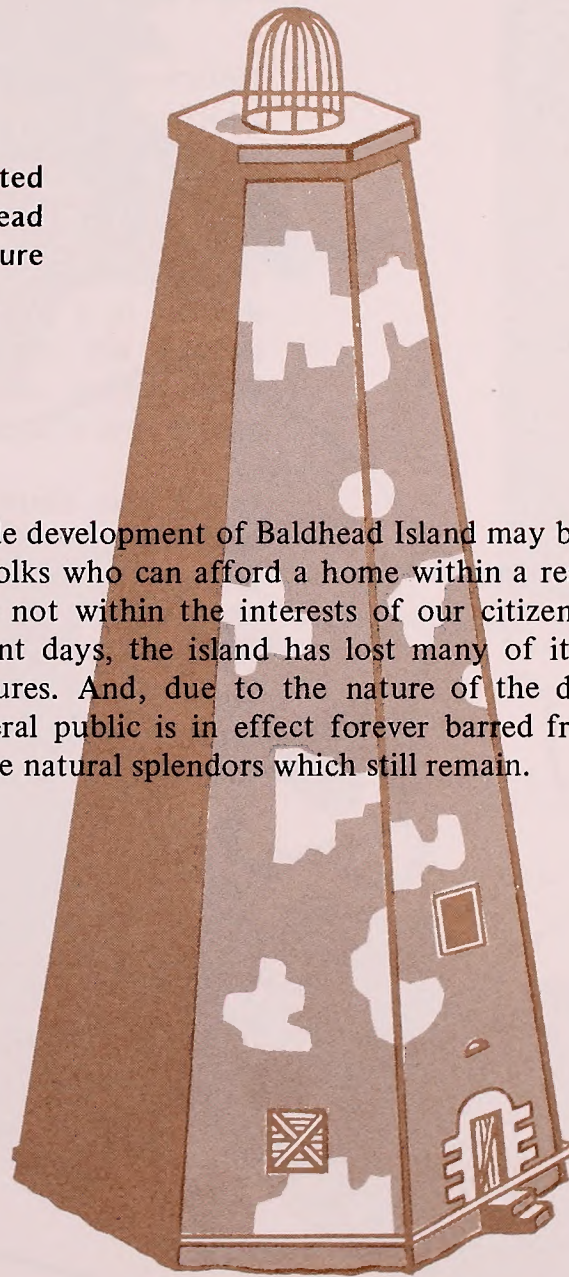
BALDHEAD

A PRIME EXAMPLE OF FAILING TO ACT IN TIME

For decades, nature's processes have coexisted with mans' limited influence on Baldhead Island. In recent months, however, the picture has changed....



While development of Baldhead Island may be in the interests of folks who can afford a home within a resort community, it is not within the interests of our citizens as a whole. In recent days, the island has lost many of its unique natural features. And, due to the nature of the development, the general public is in effect forever barred from experiencing those natural splendors which still remain.



...today, much of Baldhead has succumbed to the heavy hand of man. Ironically, Baldhead could have been acquired for as little as \$1 per acre in the 1930's, shortly after it was first proposed as a State Park.³ Lack of any State Park funds, however, prevented the procurement of such a bargain. (See Appendix B)



SKY-ROCKETING LAND COSTS: Admittedly, down-to-earth prices for land are fast becoming impossible to find nowadays. Indeed, the costs of potential State Park sites are often in orbit. But, if we don't do something -- and do it quickly, we may soon find the prices of such sites *HEADED FOR THE MOON!*

Historically, North Carolina has relied on private gifts and transfers of publicly-owned land for 72% of its State Park acreage.⁴ Gifts, as such, are becoming few and far between. Meanwhile, land values have been rising, on the average, from five to ten percent annually. Taking a seven percent annual rate of increase, one will find that the *cost* of land *doubles* in a period of *ten short years!*⁵ A higher rate of increase will obviously shorten this period. Unfortunately, prime natural areas, and potential park and recreation land *usually rises* at an even *higher rate!**

In the past, there has always been a tendency to defer any land acquisition programs while awaiting adequate revenue--revenue which rarely materializes. The fact is that if a vigorous State Park land acquisition program were implemented immediately, and paid for out of current revenue, as much as *\$19 MILLION* could be *SAVED*⁶ as compared to financing with the second most feasible alternative--bonds.** In any event, we must have immediate action now.

* (see appendix "C")

** (see appendix "D")



1st

**WE
NEED
THE
LAND...**

**THEN
WE
CAN
HAVE
PARK
DEVELOPMENT**

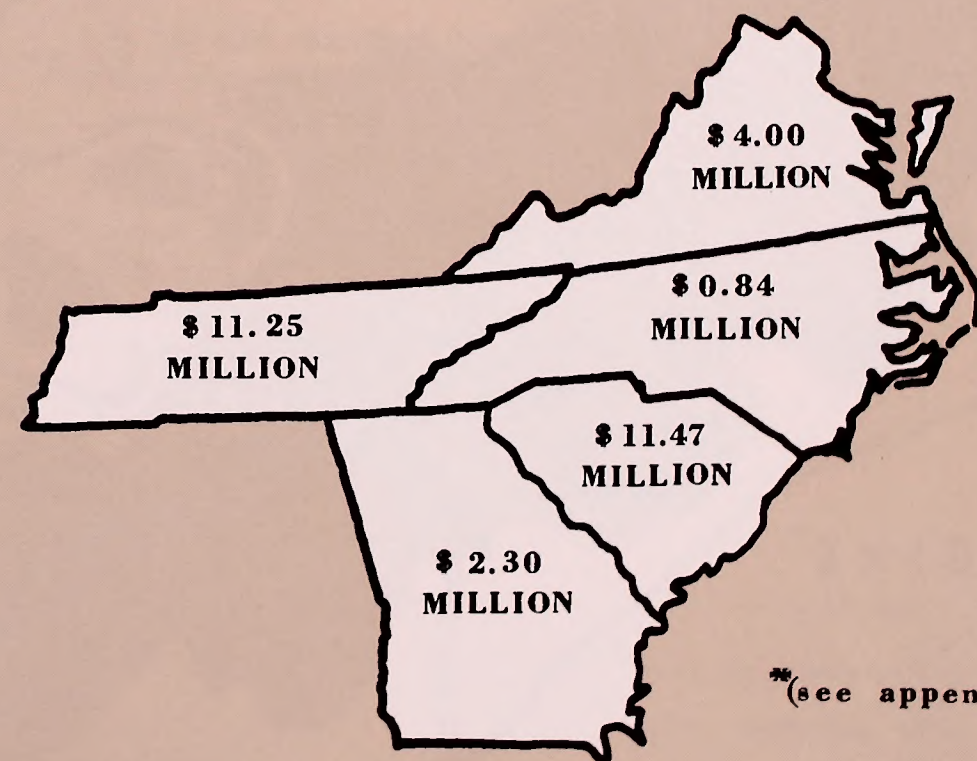
PREVIOUS N.C. STATE PARK FUNDING

Over a period of 57 years, North Carolina has spent a total of \$7.54 million for State Park capital improvements (including land acquisition);⁷ this total amount is \$1.8 million *less* than our sister state of South Carolina made available for the same purposes in a single year (1969)!⁸ Indeed, our most recent appropriation (\$1 million for the 1971-72 biennium) is \$74,000 less than our own 1949-50 biennium capital improvement appropriation.⁹

Regretfully, however, these are not isolated cases. We could compare North Carolina's allocations with Illinois' 1969-70 biennium State Parks Capital Expenditures of \$18,661,513 or Pennsylvania's \$42,411,145 or even Ohio's \$43,382,570. But for obvious reasons, this would not be fair. Consider, instead, our four neighboring states, whose total state parks capital expenditures averaged \$7.26 million, versus North Carolina's \$0.84 million for the 1969-70 biennium. This amounts to an average per capita expenditure of \$1.82 per year for our neighboring states versus North Carolina's \$0.16.

(Please note that for simplicity's sake, individual 1969 and 1970 figures for the various other states have been added to accommodate North Carolina's biennial appropriation system).¹⁰

1969-70 Biennium Capital Improvement Funds (INCLUDING LAND ACQUISITION)*



*(see appendix "E")

THE PROJECTED STATE PARK SYSTEM

In neighboring states the concept of state parks covers a broad spectrum of philosophies. State Parks have run the gamut from million dollar resorts, to high density beach areas, to semi-wilderness camping and hiking areas.

The North Carolina Division of State Parks has maintained high standards and criteria for the acceptance of new areas into this system. Extensive inventory work over the past few years has identified many available areas (28) meeting those standards and criteria of acceptance. Therefore, the *opportunity is here* for North Carolina to more than double the size of her present system, provided land acquisition funds are made available now.

The projected system will have provisions for State Park areas, recreation areas, natural areas, and natural and scenic rivers.*

A State Park will still be a protected area of statewide significance and provide the public with opportunities for various forms of outdoor recreation.

A State Natural Area will contain outstanding examples of native flora and fauna or other outstanding natural objects, conditions, or phenomena.

*In the future the projected *State Park System* should encompass the linear park concept (trails). A statewide trail system is beyond the scope and time schedule of this project, but the relationship of trails to outdoor recreation planning goals is included in appendix "F".



STATE PARK

STATE NATURAL AREA



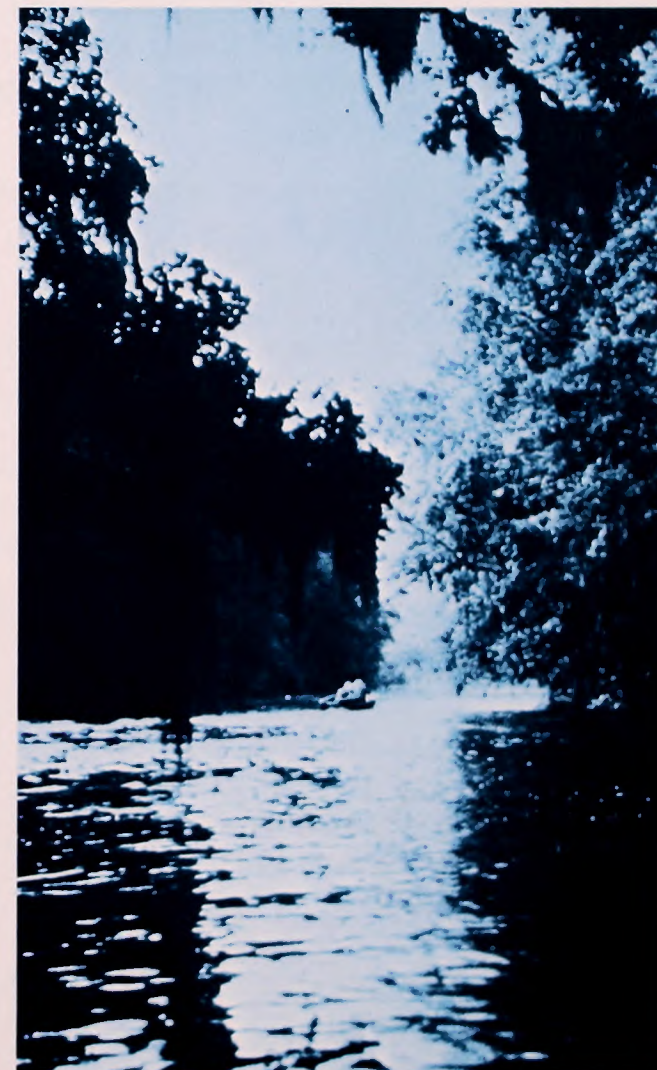


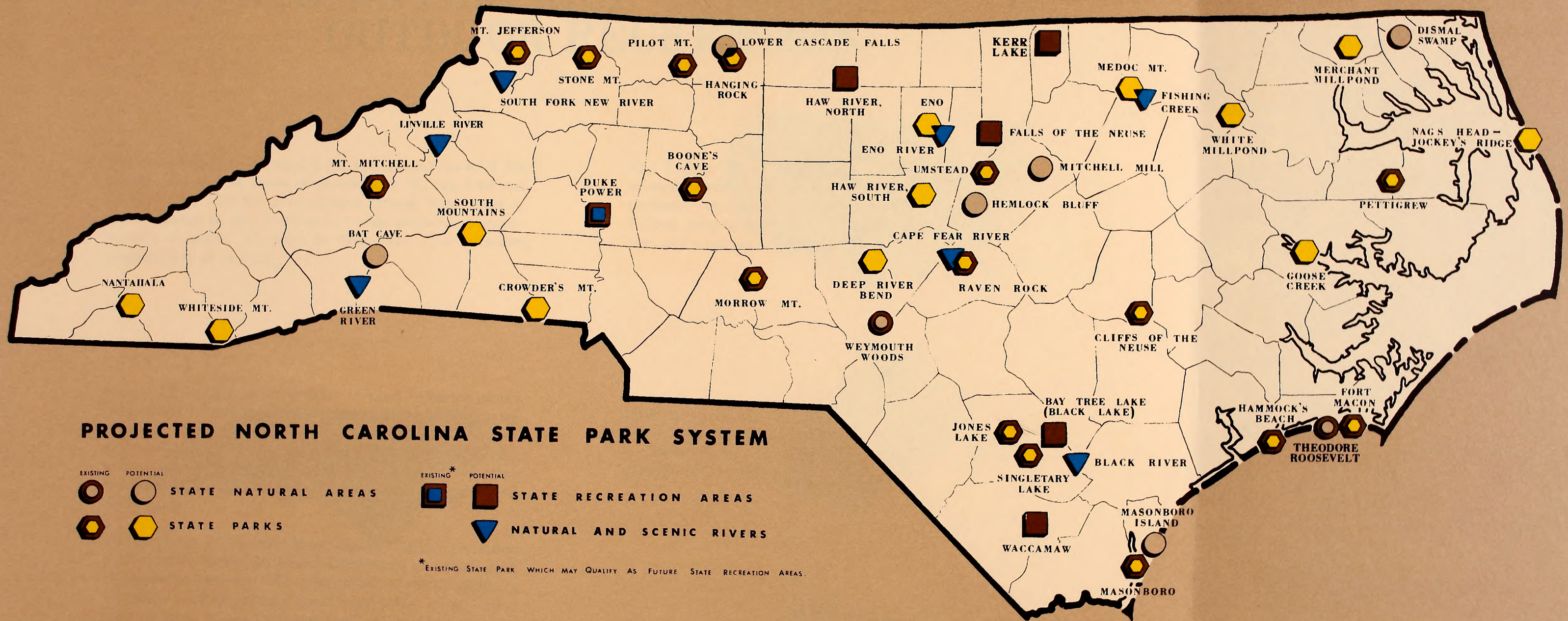
STATE RECREATION AREA

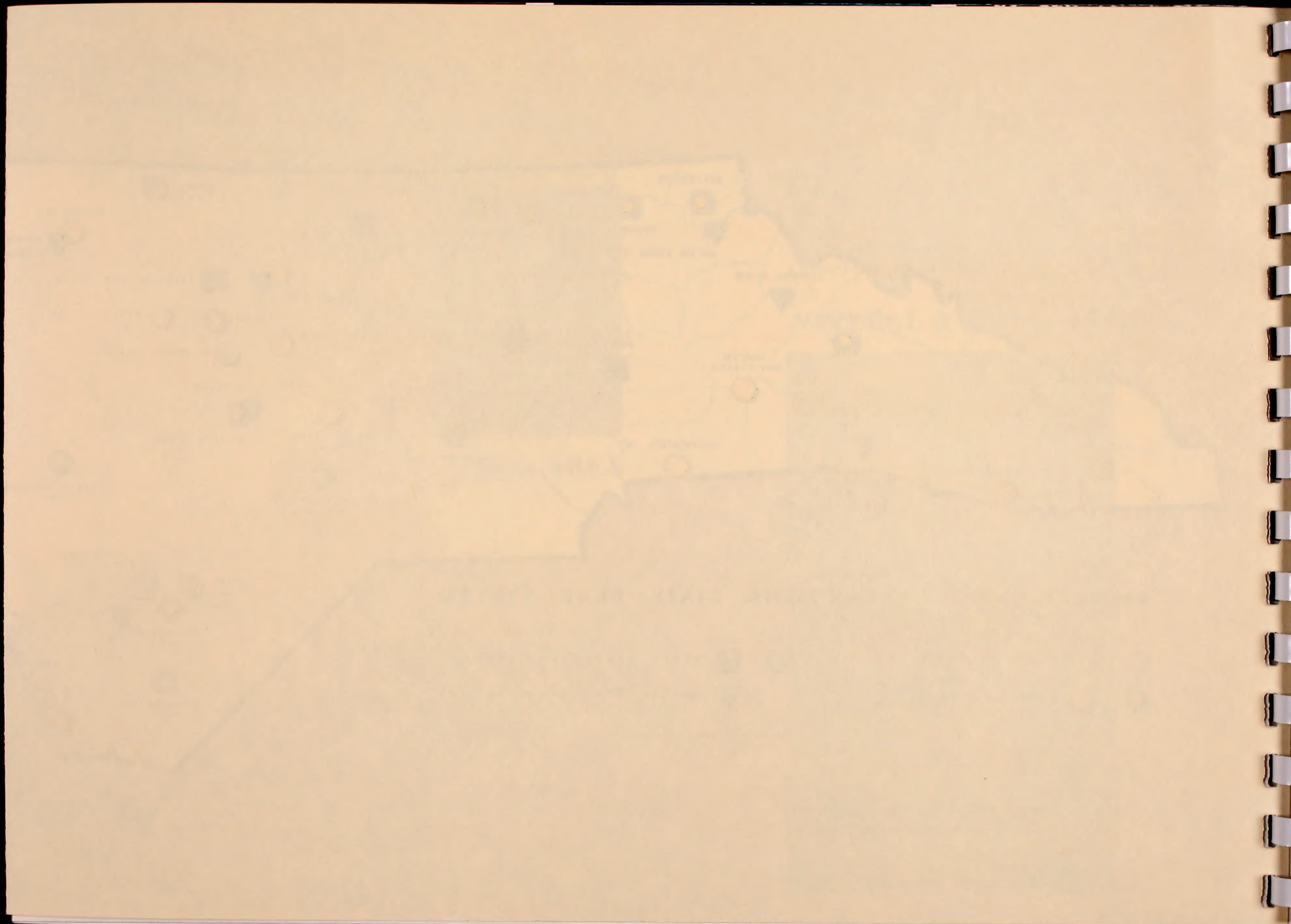
Sites selected as State Recreation Areas will possess features of unusual value for outdoor recreational activity in natural surroundings. This requirement refers to the presence of features such as, but not restricted to, topography, vegetation, streams, lakes, reservoirs or seashores which afford excellent potential for outdoor recreation facilities.

Natural and Scenic Rivers will be free-flowing and long enough to provide a meaningful river experience. Some evidence of man's activity in the immediate environment is acceptable, provided that it is generally pleasing to the eye. However, the overall area must be an outstanding example of a natural or scenic river environment.¹¹

NATURAL & SCENIC RIVER







THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE TOWARDS PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION

The responsibilities of meeting the recreational needs of the people rest with all levels of government. No one level can sit back and wait for a benevolent federal, state, local or private sector to step forth and provide recreational opportunities en masse. All must do their share if an effective program is to be realized.

Ideally the State is in the position to exert influence on the other levels of government. The judicious use of long range planning, leadership and authority can stimulate counties, municipalities and private enterprise to initiate and sustain action. At the same time the State can channel the many federal services, both funds and expertise, to particular areas of the State.¹²

The provision of adequate lower density outdoor recreation opportunities for North Carolina citizens rest on a framework of statewide facilities. The prerequisite of such facilities is statewide land ownership. Land acquisition is an "intermediate goal" to any "ultimate goal" of providing adequate opportunities. It should be emphasized, however, that any land acquired must be of significance to citizens throughout the State.

The Federal government's responsibility is one of general leadership with broad custodial and managerial powers. It is primarily concerned with areas of national significance. The Federal government is also a supporter of regional cooperation and a sponsor of research.¹³

Local governments should provide a wide range of high density recreational opportunities catering to the demands of a specific locale. They should emphasize the quality and quantity of open space in and around cities.¹⁴

The private section should specialize in competitive areas where the public sector is unable to or dare not venture. It is primarily oriented to special interests and activities, offering a profitable reward.¹⁵



FEDERAL AGENCIES CAN'T MEET STATE'S RESPONSIBILITIES



A typical week-day summer afternoon in the Smokies: a backed-up line of vehicles, disappointed visitors, three frustrated rangers, and a big 'NO VACANCY' sign in the background. This particular campground was filled to capacity *every day* this past summer, without exception, from June 10 through September 4.

Although the National Park Service and the U. S. Forest Service own substantial acreage in the state, most of these lands are relatively remote to the vast majority of North Carolinians, particularly day-users. Furthermore, both Federal agencies are hard pressed to meet the demands of millions of Eastern Americans who depend on Federal recreation facilities here in North Carolina. This doesn't leave a lot of room for native Tar Heels. Indeed, thousands of people are being turned away from the various Great Smoky Mountains National Park campsites each year. At Smokemont (a popular camping area on the N. C. side of the park), a backed-up line of vehicles, a crowd of disappointed vacationers, three frustrated rangers, and a large *NO VACANCY* sign is a familiar midafternoon spectacle--*SEVEN DAYS A WEEK*--all summer long.¹⁶ Devastatingly heavy trail usage has forced the Park Service to 'ration' the entire Appalachian Trail within the Park, as well as various other trails (effective June 5, 1972).¹⁷ With 7.2 million visitors last year, this is by far the most heavily used National Park (surpassing even Yellowstone).¹⁸

Out on Cape Hatteras, the Park Service has also begun to limit users to design capacity in an effort to prevent destruction of the natural environment. Here, too, scores of people are told to look elsewhere for camping facilities.¹⁹

Until recently, the U. S. Forest Service had a policy of utilizing "overflow" camping sites whenever regular sites become full. However, the Forest Service began to realize that these "overflow" sites were being used as often as the regular campsites! Eventually, things got so bad that even "overflow" sites began to overflow. Consequently, the U. S. Forest Service is now turning people away whenever the regular camping sites become full. In Pisgah National Forest at Lake Powhatan (near Asheville), it has become almost customary to close the gates by 11:00 a.m. most Saturdays and Sundays during the summer months. Several sites are so badly deteriorated that the Forest Service would like to close them down, but the constant demand pressures makes this an impossibility.²⁰

In essence, the Federal Government's facilities are not capable of meeting the bulk of outdoor recreational demands of North Carolina's citizens. Needless to say, both the National Park and Forest Services would welcome additional North Carolina State Parks to ease their burden. The time has come for North Carolina to take a substantial share of the responsibility of meeting her citizens outdoor recreational needs. We can't rely on an already over-crowded Federal Park System forever. Heavy use has a direct bearing on area quality. Over-use taxes sanitation, vegetation and water facilities overwhelming nature's ability to rejuvenate. Over-use is not only detrimental to the natural environment, but detracts as well, from the quality of the subsequent recreational experience.



Eroded walkways, barren soil, exposed roots...
evidence of over-use in Pisgah National Forest.



PROJECTED RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Much to our dismay, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (B. O. R.) has forecast that four times as much recreation participation will occur in 2000 A. D. as in 1960. Between 1960 and 1965, participation in outdoor recreation activities rose fifty-one (51) percent. A further increase of fifty-six (56) percent is anticipated by 1980 for the nineteen (19) summertime activities analyzed.²¹ Planning and land acquisition for such an increase in use must be started now! Overcrowding of existing facilities is obviously not a satisfactory solution to the problem.

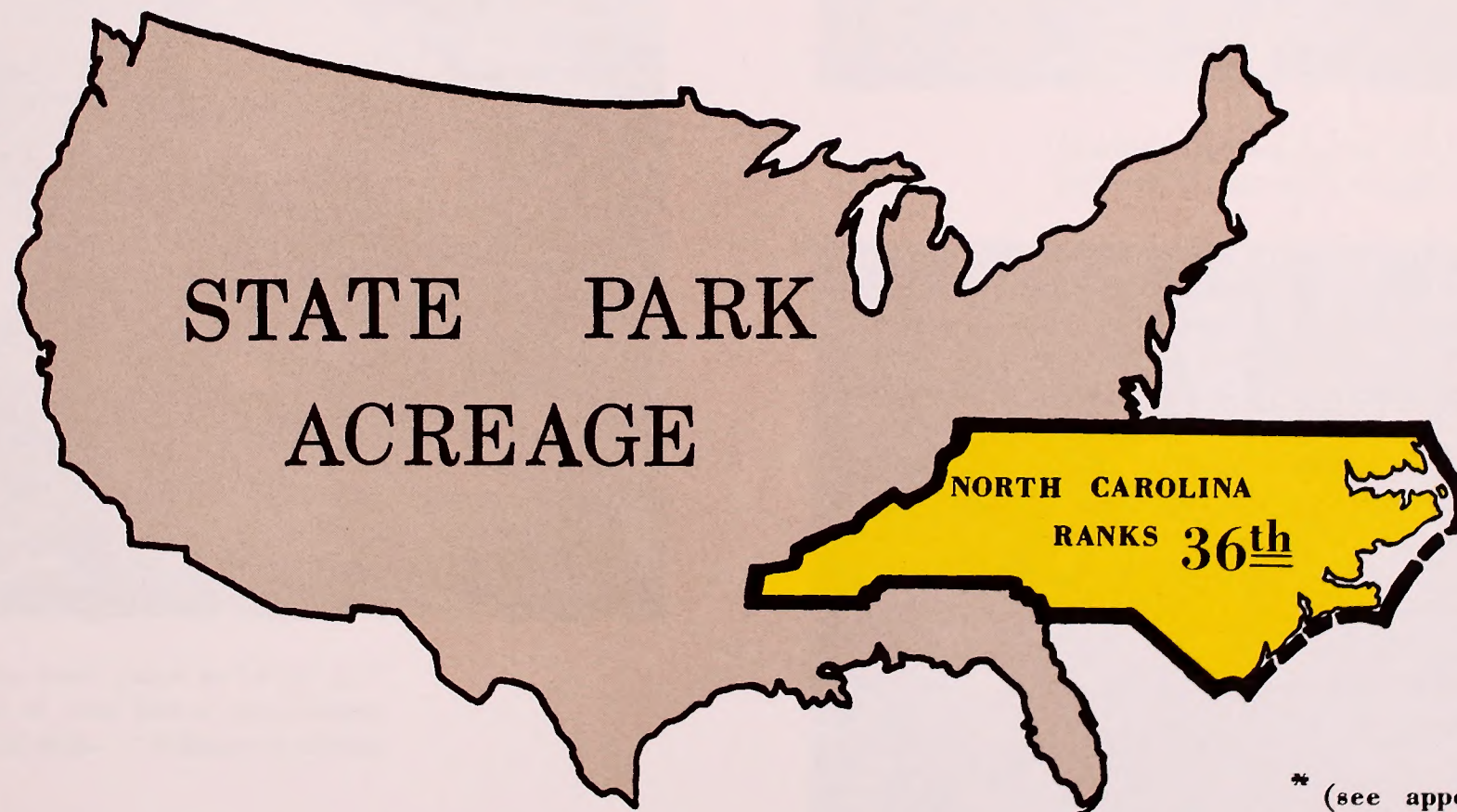


"...a lot of us today want something else: a natural area, a wild area, or a place as nearly natural as possible." --Bob Simpson

Today, the North Carolina Division of State Parks operates 5.93 acres per 1000 population, compared to 42.1 State Park acres per 1000 population in the nation as a whole²² (this accounts for a mere nine ten-thousandths of our State's total area of land and water). In 1969, the State Parks and State Forest Study Commission recommended the adoption of a relatively conservative land standard of 20 acres per 1000 population. Such a standard will require the addition of

71,226 acres to the present 30,414 acre* State Park System. This will make a total of 101,640 *effective* acres, acres which are readily accessible to the people of our State.²³

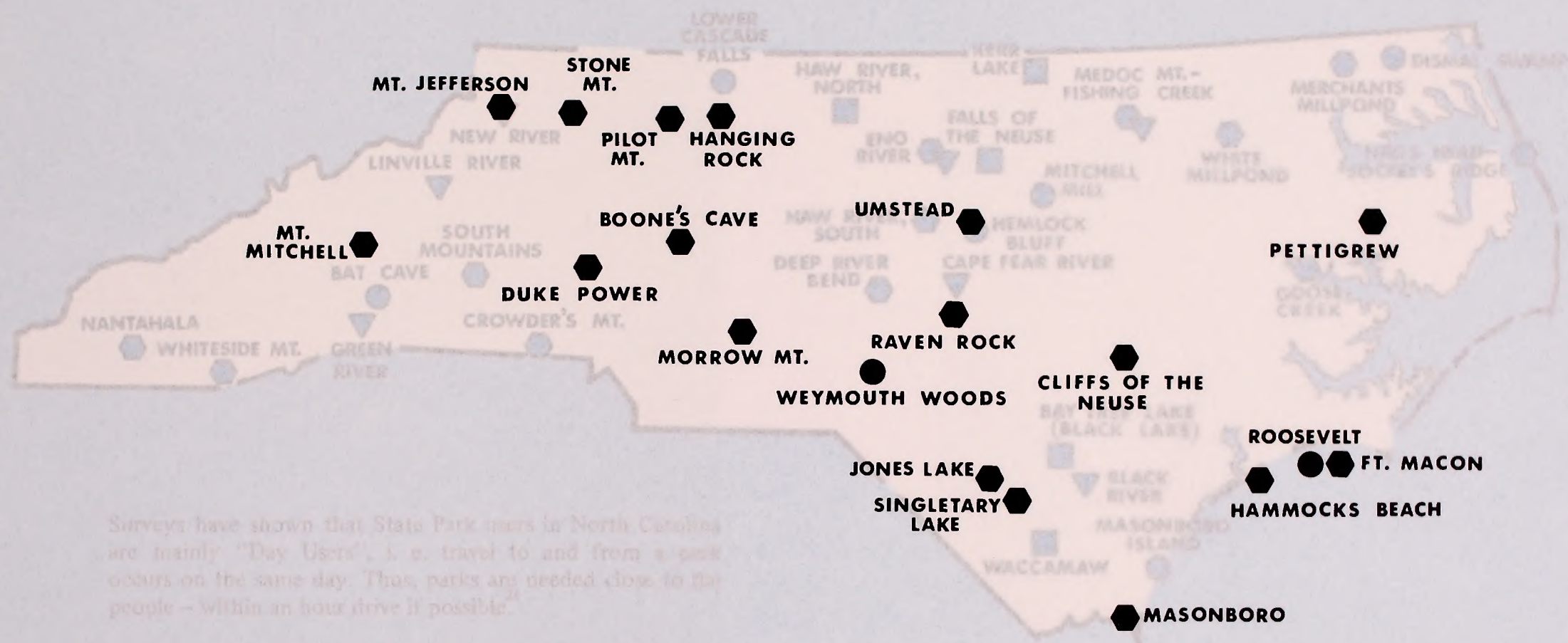
Only after acquiring and developing these added sites can we expect to keep pace with the burgeoning numbers of State Park users. In the last decade, State Park usage has increased 52.9% versus an 8.9% population increase**.



* (see appendix "G")

** (see appendix "H")

PARKS ARE WHERE YOU FIND THEM



Surveys have shown that State Park users in North Carolina are mainly "Day Users", i. e. travel to and from a park occurs on the same day. Thus, parks are needed close to the people - within an hour drive if possible.

Fortunately, North Carolina is endowed with enough outstanding natural and scenic areas so that the principle of "a State Park located within an hour drive of every North Carolinian" is not an impossibility. Although areas of statewide significance are rapidly being desecrated, there is still a little time. An on-going, statewide inventory has pin-pointed numerous areas for potential inclusion in an expanded State Park System. If all of these areas are established as State Parks, virtually every citizen of North Carolina will be within a 50 mile radius of a State Park. Effective State Park acreage can be a reality only if affirmative action is taken now.

● EXISTING STATE PARK

● EXISTING STATE NATURAL AREA

○ PROPOSED STATE PARK

○ PROPOSED STATE NATURAL AREA

□ PROPOSED STATE RECREATION AREA

▽ PROPOSED STATE NATURAL AREA

XXXXX AREA

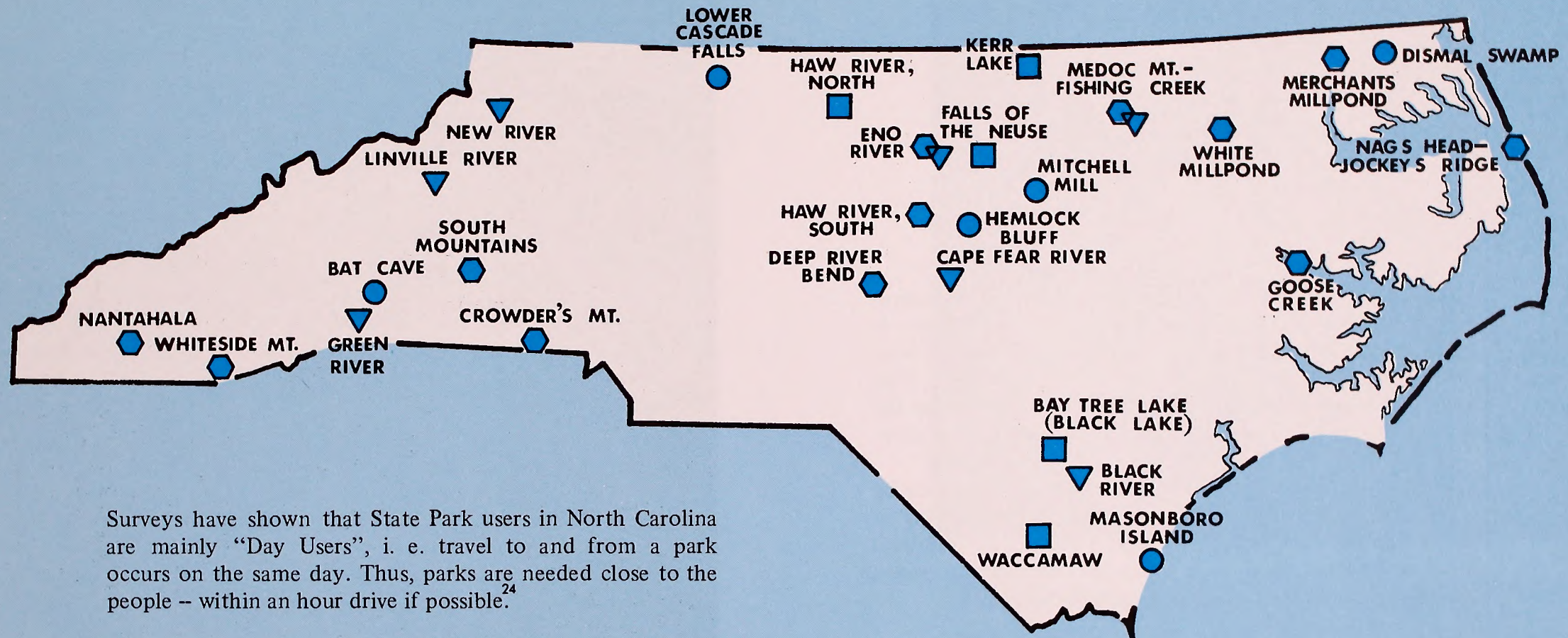
The State Park System is a collection of public lands managed for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of the people of North Carolina. The system includes a variety of natural and cultural resources, including mountains, forests, lakes, rivers, and historic sites. The State Park System is a vital part of the state's heritage and provides a wide range of recreational opportunities for all North Carolinians.

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(C) 1980 North Carolina State Park System
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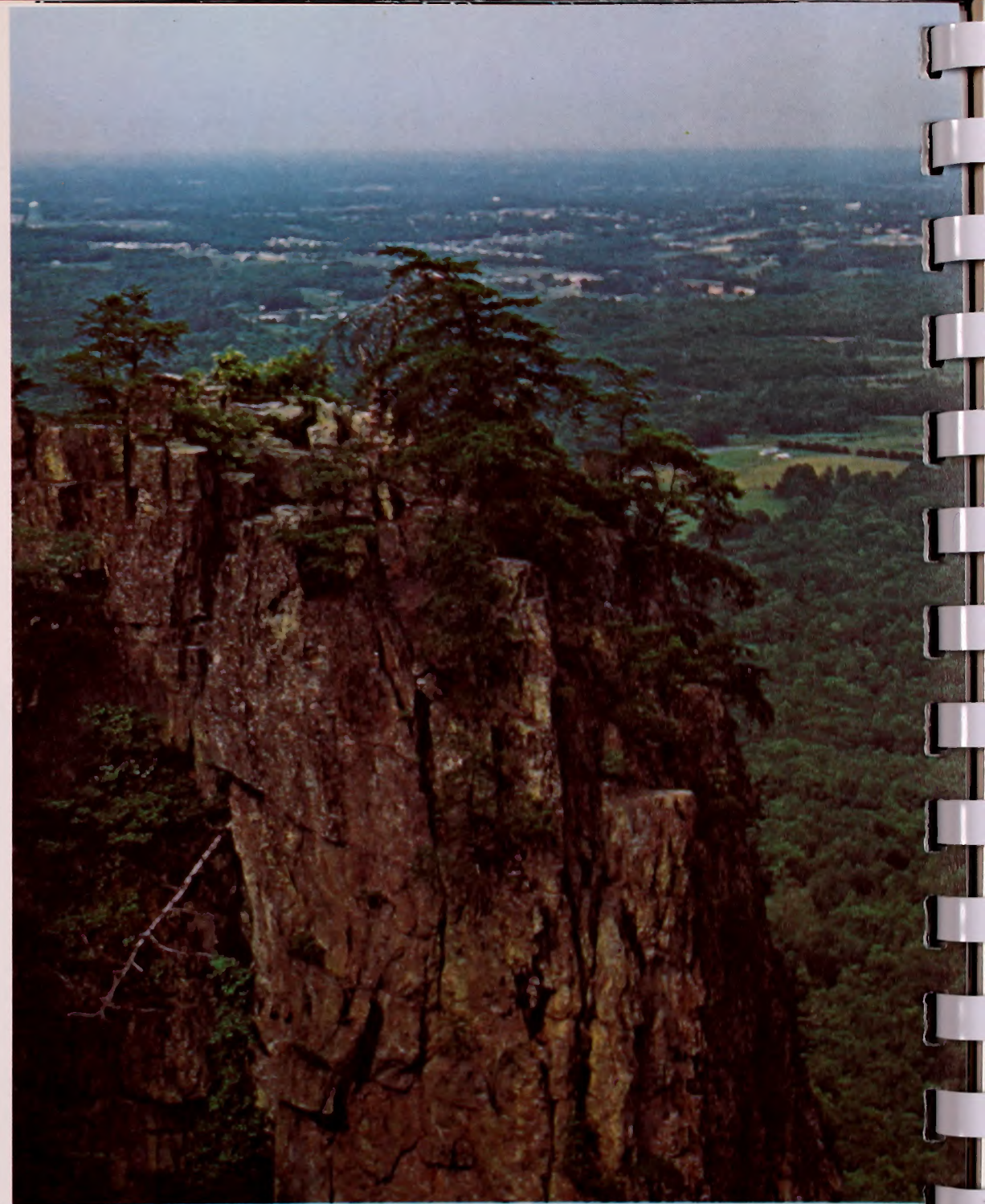
- ◆ PROPOSED STATE PARK
- PROPOSED STATE NATURAL AREA
- PROPOSED STATE RECREATION AREA
- ▼ PROPOSED STATE NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVER

THREATENED PROPOSED AREAS

CROWDERS MOUNTAIN AND KING'S PINNACLE possess unique natural beauty and great historical significance. If expired mining options are renewed, strip mining will level the outstanding natural feature of Crowder's Mountain. Even if mining is ruled out, the area is subject to overrun by the housing boom growing out of the Charlotte--Gastonia area.

The DISMAL SWAMP contains one of the few remaining stands of Atlantic White Cedar even though the majority of the swamp has been ravaged by loggers and fire for hundreds of years. However, those areas which have escaped the ravager and those which have regenerated are still threatened.

HEMLOCK BLUFFS is a natural area characterized by steep bluffs, a complex of ravines and a large handsome but rare stand of hemlock. Developers are anxious to see this area subdivided into extensive housing developments. Evidence can already be seen of damage from heavy foot traffic and garbage dumping.



CROWDER'S MOUNTAIN

MEDOC MTN. - FISHING CREEK

MEDOC MOUNTAIN is an area of undulating mountain type terrain unique to the eastern Piedmont. The State has a stay of execution on this area until August 15, 1973. At that time, if the option holder so desires, about 150 acres of mixed hardwood-pine forest centrally located may be clear-cut.

JOCKEY'S RIDGE is the highest sand dune on the east coast. Adjacent NAG'S HEAD WOODS is a prime example of maritime forest having succeeded on old dunes comparable to Jockey's Ridge. Unfortunately, bulldozers started leveling the sound side of Jockey's Ridge as early as February, 1972.

GOOSE CREEK is an outstanding natural area characterized by a variety of land forms with diverse fauna and flora. The Weyerhaeuser Corporation has offered the State an option to buy 1200 acres at "fair market value" which expires at the end of June 1973. After this date, the acreage is scheduled for sub-division into residential lots.



GOOSE CREEK

SOUTH MOUNTAINS

ENO RIVER



The remarkable scenic area of the SOUTH MOUNTAINS has been suggested for a State Park since 1940. Nine thousand acres of mature timber land which the State could have purchased became the property of a large timber company this past summer. Thus, adjacent acreage pinpointed for State Park acquisition is now a prime target for the logger.

The extraordinary conjunction of history, beautiful scenery and interesting botany makes the ENO one of North Carolina's most unique rivers. This beautiful river, however, cuts a path across land of extreme value for commercial and residential development. Numerous developments have already begun to encroach upon the very banks of this river.

MERCHANT'S MILL POND

The BLACKROCK-WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN area is characterized by rugged topography with large rock outcrops and outstanding scenic views from natural clearings. In the past five years, rapid development has been promoted. Numerous developments, advertisements and real estate offices indicate that the effort is still in high gear.

The LOWER CASCADES is one of the most scenic natural areas in the State. This jewel of a natural area at the foot of Hanging Rock State Park is now being threatened by over and mis-use. Trails created by constant trampling are now eroded ravines, and the small parking area above the cascades has become a garbage dump. Last summer, the beautiful rock outcrop surrounding the cascades was defaced with paint.

MERCHANT'S MILL POND is one of the few remaining Virgin Cypress Swamps with some trees which may have witnessed the birth of Christianity. Logging operations surround this site and much of the prime area in the swamp above the pond is owned by timber companies.



LOWER CASCADES

State Park Requirements Before 1980

Primarily due to a critical shortage of manpower, land acquisitions were requested for only ten (10) new areas in the original 1973-74 biennium capital improvements requests. Since this request was first written some months ago, however, an accelerated field investigation was launched in a last desperate attempt to identify and categorize those areas remaining in the state which deserve inclusion in the State Park System. This accelerated campaign was made possible, largely, because of the temporary employment of several student summer interns whose investigations have complemented work already accomplished by the regular full-time State Park staff. As a result of these intensive field investigations, twenty-eight new areas have been "highly recommended," with the possible addition of several others. However, as the preceeding four pages indicated, this number can be expected to dwindle in the near future.

In addition, detrimental inholdings and adjacent lands which threaten the integrity of ten (10) existing parks must be acquired soon.*

Once these areas are acquired, they should be developed promptly for public usage so that at least the basic and most prevalent outdoor recreation activities are available at an early date. Later, provisions can be made for a full range of activities.

Last, but not least, the State Park System staff will need to be expanded, not only to accommodate the existing critical shortage, but to cope with the increased workload which can be expected with the expansion of the System.

*(see appendix "A")

Land Acquisition Funds Originally Requested for 10 New State Park Areas - \$6,560,000

Land Acquisition Funds Requested for 18 additional New Areas - \$10,000,000

Land Acquisition Funds Requested for 10 existing State Parks - \$3,797,000

Development Funds Requested for Existing State Park Areas - \$10,534,500

Development Funds Requested for Proposed State Park Areas - \$10,000,000

Total for Capital Improvements - \$40,891,500*

(Please note that this total figure correlates with the 1969 State Parks and Forests Study Commission report to the Governor.)

The cost of additional manpower will of course have a direct relationship with the appropriations, revenue sharing, bond issues, and/or special bills approved by the N. C. General Assembly for State Parks Capital Improvements.

SUMMARY

"It is the considered judgement of the legislature, that... The public good and the moral welfare of the citizens of this state require an adequate recreation program"—the 1967 "Recreation Enabling Law of North Carolina"

How ironic it is that our state is ranked 46th in per capita expenditures by state governments for parks and recreation!*

For decades now, North Carolina has sluggishly stood by, watching outstanding potential State Park sites come and go. For decades now, we have depended on an increasingly crowded Federal Park and Forest System to bear our State's outdoor recreation responsibilities. The time has come when outstanding potential State Park sites are no longer readily available; they are quickly giving the way of industry, shopping centers, condominiums, suburbia, and clear-cutting. The time has come when our National Parks have reached their use capacity and our National Forests are suffering over-use. We must continue to meet our recreation demands! North Carolina has a grave responsibility—and its time she met it. It's *now or never!*

* (see appendix "K")

NOW OR NEVER AREAS (PROPOSED)

Information on the potential State Park Areas, Natural Areas and Recreational Areas was obtained from State Park Files on potential areas, usually in the form of site investigations reports by the State Park Staff or by other professionals. Information on the Natural and Scenic Rivers was obtained from the 1971 *Report and Recommendations of Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Committee*.

BAT CAVES

The Bat Caves area is located in Rutherford County. The main highway in this area is U.S. 74. The 1970 population of Rutherford and adjacent counties was 410,500.

The area contains a series of metasedimentary rocks of Precambrian (?) age. The sediments have been metamorphosed into fine grained gneiss with some showing augen structures with occasional lenses of hornblende gneiss, mica gneiss, and mica schists. The caves appear to have been formed along a vertical shear zone or possibly by weathering of joint systems.

Plant life varies from protrusive colonies of liverworts on the moist rocks to extensive samplings of ferns and orchids in the woodlands. Large chestnut logs (*Castanea dentata*) are lying on the mountain sides under a canopy of Northern Red Oak, Chestnut, White Oak, Tulip Trees and hickories. Intermingled are good representations of White Pine and Canadian Hemlock. *Rhododendron maximum* and Mountain Laurel are common.

Several items of zoological importance are obvious. This is (1) one of the few stations for the rare sub-species of the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis subuiatus leibii*) in North Carolina; (2) the only station in the world (currently) for one species of salamander (*Piethodon longicrus*); (3) an important transition zone for certain mountainous and piedmont mammalian species.

The general terrain is mountainous and in some areas very steep and rugged. The gorge which contains the river and the highway is narrow, but will support limited development. The Broad River which runs parallel to Highway U.S. 74, contains many large boulders which help form pleasing rapids and minor cascades.

In 1967, the owner of the property proposed the possibility of deeding to the State of North Carolina, approximately 60 acres of land. This matter did not progress to the point of acceptance by the State because a 60-acre site simply would not be large enough to provide an adequate buffer area to protect the natural features from outside influences or encroachments. Since funds

were not available to acquire adequate acreage for a buffer zone, and since the owner never indicated an intention to donate additional acreage, the State could not accept this generous offer.

If the site were to become a State Natural Area, paths or trails would be opened only in a manner compatible with keeping it nearly as possible in its natural condition. No buildings or structures would be constructed except those needed to carry out an adequate interpretive program and to provide sanitary facilities and a place to store maintenance equipment. The site has been well protected and maintained showing no evidence of adverse change.

BAY TREE LAKE

Bay Tree Lake (formerly Black Lake), one of eight State owned lakes, is located in Bladen County. The 1970 population of Bladen and surrounding counties was 400,801. Main highways in this area are N.C. 701, N.C. 87, N.C. 41, and N.C. 242.

It is the largest natural lake in Bladen County. At the same time, the lake is the shallowest, with the maximum depth of water being just over seven feet near the southeast end.

This is one of the Carolina Bay Lakes which are unique to the central east coast. Their formation has long been a point of controversy among scientists. Several theories have been formulated but the most commonly accepted is that they are the result of impact craters from massive meteor showers.

In 1965, the Department of Conservation and Development granted permission to Bay Lakes Corporation of Clinton to drain and remove the debris from the bottom of Black Lake. It was felt that a clear lake similar to White Lake would be more desirable for swimming, fishing, and boating. Following the clean-up operation, the lake was renamed Bay Tree Lake by order of the Board of Conservation and Development.

Bay Lakes Corporation has offered the State 90 acres of land, including 1,000 feet of lake front, to be used as a nucleus for a

park. 450 additional acres need to be purchased in the Bay Tree Lake area to bring the acreage up to an acceptable minimum standard for State Parks.

It is highly recommended that the State acquire this property as there is presently no public access to the water. The general public should have use of this lake.

BLACK RIVER

Black River is one of the six rivers designated to be the initial components of a North Carolina Natural and Scenic River System. At this time, none have officially been designated, but Black River is still of high priority.

Black River is formed by the confluence of Big Coharie Creek and South River in the southeastern section of Sampson County. It flows southeastward through Sampson County, along the boundary between Pender and Bladen Counties and through Pender County where it empties into the Cape Fear River north of Wilmington.

The stream segments being considered include the South River, from Highway 701 to its confluence with the Black River (25.75 miles); the Coharie Creek from Highway 701 to its confluence with Black River (7.5 miles); Six Runs Creek from Highway 421 to its confluence with Black River (11.5 miles); and Black River from the upper boundaries listed above to its confluence with the Cape Fear River (an additional 64.5 miles).

The 1970 population of Sampson, Pender, Bladen and adjacent counties was 243,736. The main highways in this area are U.S. 421, U.S. 701, N.C. 210, N.C. 87, N.C. 411, and N.C. 53.

Typically, the meandering streams in the Black River area have eroded through the unconsolidated surficial sands and clays into the older well-bedded sand and clay layers, forming deep valleys. Often these valleys have sheer bluffs which expose the older sedimentary formations ranging in age from 65 to 100 million years.

In general, the river banks and stream edges are made up of heavy timber stands consisting of cypress, maple, tupelo gum, green ash, water willow, and pin oaks, blackgums, sweetgum and several bogs.

Highly prized fish caught in the river are redbreast sunfish, bluegill pumpkinseed, large-mouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, warmouth and bullheads. During the spring months, anadromous species ascend the river to spawn. These fish include the American shad, blue-back herring and striped bass.

The lower 15 miles of Black River is affected by tides. The main stem of the river is one of the most beautiful blackwater streams in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina. The flood plain of the lower stream section is a tidal swamp area where bald cypress grow profusely. Here, Spanish moss hangs like drapery along the stream.

The Black River and its main tributaries provide a beautiful and scenic route for the small boat enthusiast. The watershed has approximately 175 miles of navigable waters at normal flows. The black water stream has an average depth of approximately six feet and an average width of 150 feet. Clearing and snagging operations by the Corps of Engineers were completed along the lower 50 miles of Black River in 1967 for recreational boating purposes.

The area encompassed by this drainage system is rich in colonial and state history. Indians used the area in early times based on the abundant numbers of Indian artifacts found.

CAPE FEAR RIVER

Cape Fear River is another one of the six rivers designated to be the initial components of a North Carolina Natural and Scenic River System. At this time, none have officially been included, but the Cape Fear River is still of high priority.

The Cape Fear River is formed by the junction of the Deep River and the Haw River at a point near Moncure in Chatham County. From this point, the Cape Fear River flows southeastward and discharges into the Atlantic near Southport.

The 1970 population of Lee, Harnett, Chatham and adjacent counties was 695,922. Main highways in the area are U.S. 401, U.S. 421, N.C. 210, N.C. 27, and N.C. 42.

The section of the river studied is approximately 9 miles in length inclusive of a section that runs adjacent to Raven Rock State Park in Harnett County. One of the most impressive features of the Raven Rock area is the deep, steep-sided gorge which the Cape Fear River has cut through the ancient metamorphic rocks of the piedmont. Vertical cliffs, some 150 feet high, border the southside of the river.

There are three general plant communities which occur on the southside of the river. The first of these is the upland ridge where the trees are primarily hardwoods with oak, chestnut, and hickory being the dominant species. The second is the beech ravine community where the timber consists of great beech trees, tulip poplars and sugar maples. The third community is the bottom-

land, where the dominant trees are hackberry, sycamore, black walnut, tulip poplar and elm.

Because of the three distinct forest types, the Raven Rock area possesses an abundance of wild flowers.

Large-mouth bass, redbreast sunfish and bluegill are the major game fish. Channel catfish, white catfish and longnose gar dominate the non-game fish population.

Fishing the river by boat is somewhat hazardous, and fishermen should obtain some information about this section before navigating it. A small motor (less than 10 horsepower) is very helpful in traveling upstream when the river is "up", otherwise a float-trip downriver or bank fishing, is recommended.

The entire Cape Fear River basin is particularly significant in the colonial history. The river was an avenue of trade and settlement.

CROWDERS MOUNTAIN

Crowders Mountain and Kings Pinnacle, principal peaks in the Kings Mountain range, are located in Gaston and Cleveland counties. The 1970 population of Cleveland, Gaston and adjacent counties was 716,000. Within a radius of 25 miles from Crowders Mountain there are 544,000 people. Main highways in this area are I-85, U.S. 321, and N.C. 274.

Crowders Mountain is a prominent feature in the landscape. The rock outcrops are quite impressive. They provide some of the best examples of sheer vertical cliffs in the State. The sheer faces and rugged slopes should be considered as preserve areas. Simple trails are the only development that should be allowed.

The extensive wooded apron of the Mountain covers about 1,000 acres and is highly suitable for various recreational developments. Some impoundments presently exist in this apron and there is potential for additional lakes.

The Pinnacle is not quite as rugged as Crowders Mountain, but it too possesses a certain unique character. It is suitable for extensive foot traffic. Slopes are not as severe as on the neighboring peak and there is some potential for minor development on top. The views from this summit are exhilarating for they take in Crowders and Kings Mountain. Here again, the gentle sloping apron is quite suitable for State Park development.

Two threats loom over the Crowders Mountain and Kings Pinnacle area. Strip mining could level the outstanding natural features of Crowders Mountain if mining operations, which have been in effect for a number of years, are renewed and exercised.

If mining is ruled out, both peaks face the encroachment of housing developments growing out of the Charlotte-Gastonia area. Approximately 3,600 acres is required to completely include the distinctive features of Crowders Mountain and Kings Pinnacle and to provide sufficient buffer area to protect these features.

DEEP RIVER BEND

The area of Deep River Bend is located in Moore County. The 1970 population of Moore and adjacent counties was 327,615. Main highways in this area are U.S. 1, U.S. 15, U.S. 501, N.C. 24, N.C. 27, and N.C. 22.

Several months were spent by a State Park team investigating several proposed sites in the Sandhills. The area of Deep River Bend was finally discovered after intensive field reconnaissance.

The site consists of a fairly large expanse of woodland divided by the Deep River. Several thousand acres of forest are situated on gently rolling to rugged terrain and consist of upland pine, hardwoods, pine plantation, and bottom land hardwoods.

Wildlife appears to be quite abundant. The river, which is navigable from the southern end of the site to within just a few hundred feet of the western boundary, should provide good fishing, as well as enjoyable boating. This stretch is about 5 miles long.

The varied topography and diverse, expansive forest lands, combined with the natural water corridor of Deep River, give this site a real "park" character. There is a great deal of potential to recommend this area as a State Park.

The forests are subject to logging operations. Consequently, the state must move as quickly as possible to acquire the Deep River Bend area if the logging threat is to be averted and the area preserved.

DISMAL SWAMP

The Great Dismal Swamp straddles the border between North Carolina and Virginia. In North Carolina, the Dismal lies in Camden, Currituck, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Gates and Chowan counties. The 1970 population of these six counties was 66,892. The main highways in the area are U.S. 17, U.S. 158, and N.C. 343.

In 1971, the General Assembly appropriated \$200,000 for acquisition of acreage for the establishment of a unit of the State

Park System. These funds have not been used in deference to a study by The Nature Conservancy on behalf of the Federal Government and its interest in preserving much of the Swamp as a wildlife sanctuary.

Time is rapidly running out for the eventual establishment of a unit of the State Park System in the Dismal Swamp. The majority of the swamp has been ravaged by loggers and fire for hundreds of years. Those areas which have escaped these ravages (i.e. a few stands of Atlantic White Cedar) and those which have regenerated are still threatened by timber harvest. Furthermore, continued development and drainage projects permanently alter large tracts yearly of the once great Dismal Swamp.

Since some of the originally proposed lands have suffered the effects of logging, field investigations have been renewed throughout the swamp in an effort to identify the best possible park site for the citizens of North Carolina.

ENO RIVER

The Eno River rises in Orange County, northwest of Hillsborough, and flows eastward past Durham to the confluence with the Neuse River. The Eno meanders throughout Piedmont country rich in history and scenic beauty.

The 1970 population of Orange, Durham and adjacent counties was 589,726. Main highways in the area are I-85, U.S. 15-501, N.C. 55, and N.C. 70.

A twenty mile stretch of the river is proposed for a park which would include several thousand acres of upland forest in addition to land preserved along the stream. The area traversed by the river is increasing in value for urban development. Commercial and residential development has already begun to encroach upon the Eno's banks. The City of Durham has begun to react to this threat by acquiring land for park purposes. A project committee of the Nature Conservancy is also in the process of acquiring available land in the interests of preserving the Eno as a natural and scenic river.

The State must follow up these initiatives quickly if a major portion of the Eno is to be saved.

FALLS OF THE NEUSE

The impact of the Falls Reservoir on the Neuse River and its surrounding region will be complex and large-scale. The pro-

posed reservoir, because of its closeness to the Raleigh and Durham metropolitan areas and its suitability for development of recreation facilities, will be of major importance for outdoor recreation use.

The 1970 population of Durham, Wake and Granville counties was 393,896. Access into the area is very favorable over I-85, U.S. 15, N.C. 50, N.C. 96 and N.C. 56.

The North Carolina State Planning Task Force recommends that approximately 9,250 acres of land be acquired as part of the Falls Reservoir for outdoor recreation and wildlife enhancement purposes.

The general plans for the entire reservoir call for I-85 highway roadside areas, marinas and other water-based recreation facilities (primarily of a commercial nature) as well as a large and contiguous wildlife area, a State Park, and intensive recreational use areas. The reservoir could be developed for camping and a wide range of day-use activities including swimming, picnicking, hiking, nature study, boating and water skiing.

The State of North Carolina has a contractual responsibility for one-half of the separable costs for land acquisition and facility development. Public Law 89-72, dated July 9, 1965, requires that on multiple-purpose water resource projects one-half of the separable costs for land acquisition and facility development will be borne by non-Federal sources.

The contract proposed by the Federal Government provides two options as far as payment is concerned. The State can pay as land is acquired or agree to pay back to the Federal Government our share over a period of 50 years plus interest to be affixed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

GREEN RIVER

Green River is another river designated to be one of the initial components of a North Carolina Natural and Scenic River System. At this time, none have officially been named but Green River is still of high priority.

The Green River originates in Henderson County near Forked Mountain along the Transylvania County and North Carolina-South Carolina State lines, whence it flows northeasterly and then southeastward parallel to the Polk-Rutherford County line and empties into the Broad River.

Main highways in the area are I-26, U.S. 64, U.S. 74, and N.C. 108. In 1970 the population of Henderson, Rutherford, and adjacent counties was 326,903.

Green River flows from the Blue Ridge province into the Western Piedmont. The bedrock geology is more than 500 million years old and is exposed along reaches of the channel. A striking feature of the geology of the area is the absence of homogeneous rocks. Schists, gneisses, and granites are common.

The section below Lake Summit is noted for its trout fishing. Good trout fishing and excellent spring fishing for suckers can be found below Fishtop Falls. Below Lake Adger the main fishing is sunfish, catfish and suckers.

During periods of high water, canoeing is possible but dangerous through the famous Green River Narrows, where the water is funneled through a narrow sluice for hundreds of yards. Excellent canoeing water lies below Fishtop Falls and is utilized by Boy Scouts and other youth groups.

Gravel washing operations and erosions from I-26 highway construction has turned a section of Green River almost continuously turbid. However, this condition is correctable if action is taken now.

GOOSE CREEK

Goose Creek is located in Beaufort County. The 1970 population of Beaufort and adjacent counties was 226,240. A park at this location would be within one hour driving time (or fifty miles) of approximately 350,000 people, about 7% of the State's population. Main highways in the area are U.S. 17, U.S. 264, and N.C. 92.

The Goose Creek area is characterized by a variety of land forms and diverse fauna and flora. The river section is quite interesting with its natural sand beaches backed by luxuriant evergreen shrub bogs of Red Bay, Gall Berry, Wax-Myrtle, *Arundinaria*, and Bamboo Brier, with a dominant canopy of Water Oak and Loblolly Pine.

The area offers some excellent sites for boat launch and small marina development which would open up the entire Pamlico River to the users of a State Park. The creek and the river offer excellent opportunities for fishing, bird watching and a number of water-oriented recreation activities.

It is fortunate with the prevalence of logging and other forms of development that this small area has escaped serious encroachment by man. However, some cutting has recently occurred, demonstrating the need for immediate acquisition action. It is obvious that this natural area is in jeopardy if some type of action is not taken soon.

The Weyerhaeuser Corporation has offered the State an option to buy 1200 acres. This option expires at the end of June, 1973. If the State doesn't acquire this acreage, the land is scheduled for subdivision into residential lots.

HAW RIVER

The Haw River, about 90 miles in length, rises in Guilford County and joins the Deep River to form the Cape Fear River. The Haw River has a relatively narrow valley and steep gradient averaging about 10 feet per mile.

Two areas along the river have been proposed for possible acquisition by the State: A *Haw River North* site in southeastern Rockingham County approximately 20 miles from Greensboro, and a *Haw River South* site located in Chatham County.

At Haw River North, an 800 acre site has been identified which offers good potential as a State Recreation Area to serve the growing urban population in the Greensboro-Burlington area. The proposed site encompasses rolling upper Piedmont terrain as well as the historic High Rock Ford. The main highways in this area are I-85, U.S. 158, U.S. 29 and N.C. 87.

The Haw River South area in Chatham County offers contrasting features of slow-flowing waters and boulder-laden rapids. Terraced floodplain, high bluffs, and upland forest dissected by steep ravines combine to give this stretch of river a scenic and wild appearance. This area is worthy of preservation either as a State Park or as a segment of the Natural and Scenic River System. A thousand acres would provide the land needed. The area is within easy reach of over 1,000,000 people in the greater Research Triangle Region.

Land speculators are beginning to move in on both sites. It is time to act now if parks are to be established in these areas.

HEMLOCK BLUFFS

Hemlock Bluffs is a potential State Natural Area located in Wake County. The uniqueness of the area and the density of the population (1970 Population for Wake and adjacent counties was 561,674) makes it truly a remarkable area. Main highways in this area are I-40, U.S. 401, U.S. 1, U.S. 64, U.S. 70, and N.C. 54.

The land immediately surrounding the bluffs consists of flood plain, ridges, and deep ravines covered by oak, hickory, beech,

and mixed flood plain forest. Growing on the bluffs themselves is a relict alpine plant community similar to that which covered the entire region when the climate was cooler and more humid. It is on the face and top of the bluffs, 105 feet high and 350 long where their vegetation is located and where the small stand of eastern hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis* L.) is found.

The thousands who have been to the area have laced the bluffs with footpaths, destroyed stretches of the undergrowth and accelerated the erosion of the bluff face. The principal threat to the hemlock comes from people who have dug up seedlings and cut branches for use as Christmas decorations.

With the impending development of southern Wake County, visitation pressures and development pressures promise total destruction of the bluffs unless preserved and managed as a natural area.

Approximately 200-300 acres of bluff, grove, flood plain and ravine buffer zone are necessary for the preservation of this unique alpine plant community.

KERR LAKE

Area of Kerr Lake would be placed under the State Parks Division for management and operation. The Director of State Parks would confer and consult with the Kerr Reservoir Commission on all matters pertaining to the administration of the area and would take no action with regard to personnel or matters of policy without the approval of the Kerr Reservoir Commission. The plan will make the commission "even more effective in the area of overall planning and administrative direction."

LINVILLE RIVER

Linville River has also been proposed as one of the initial components of a North Carolina Natural and Scenic River System. At this time, none have officially been designated but Linville River is still of high priority.

The Linville River heads in Avery County, North Carolina, in the vicinity of Grandfather Mountain and flows generally southward through the Blue Ridge Mountains into Burke County where it empties into Lake James at an elevation of 2,700 feet below that of its headwaters. The main highways in this area

are I-40, U.S. 64, U.S. 70, U.S. 221, N.C. 181 and N.C. 126. The 1970 population of Avery and surrounding Counties was 197,217.

Topographically and geologically, the Linville Gorge is one of the most spectacular features in the eastern U.S. The Gorge, which cuts through the Blue Ridge for a distance of about 15 miles, reaches a maximum depth below the adjacent uplands of 1,700 feet.

Linville River has had a reputation as a good brown trout stream for many years. Small mouth bass are also present in the lower reaches of the water.

The river is unnavigable due to the frequent cascades and falls and also to the shallowness of the boulder and rubble-strewn river bed.

The river and the gorge with its natural formations encompass an area 14 miles long and 2 miles wide and is considered one of the most spectacular undamaged areas of the south. Linville River is one of the few remaining scenic streams in natural and spectacular surroundings.

Ownership of Linville Gorge is almost entirely by government agencies. All the cultivated pasture land is outside the gorge while the land within is wooded. The Linville Gorge Wilderness (7,575 acres) was placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System in 1964.

LOWER CASCADE FALLS

The Lower Cascades is an area of approximately one hundred and eighty acres located in the Sauratown Mountains in Stokes County. Main highways in this area are N.C. 89 and N.C. 66. In 1970 the population of Stokes and adjacent counties was 675,262.

The woods are made up of various hardwoods such as hickory, maple, chestnut and oak. The ground cover includes many and varied plants. Worthy of special mention is *Xerophyllum asphodelloides* (L), Nuttall or Turkey beard. Both Carolina and Canadian hemlock are present in the area. There is also a small colony of Sundew which is a rare feature of the area.

The area is the home of many species of wild animals. The stream (Cascade Creek) provides abundant water while the forest provides protection and homes for birds, squirrels, rabbits, white-tailed deer and many other animals.

The natural beauty of the falls, the large outcroppings of rock and the varied, beautiful vegetation are just some of the reasons for the suitability of this area as a protected natural area.

The jewel of a natural area located at the foot of Hanging Rock State Park is now being threatened by over-use and vandalism. The area is accessible to the public but has no protection. Trails which have been created by constant use are now eroded ravines; the small parking area above the cascades has become a garbage dump and only last summer the beautiful rock outcrops surrounding the cascade were defaced with paint.

This outstanding natural area should be acquired as soon as possible to save it from a careless and unthinking element of the public.

MASONBORO ISLAND

Masonboro Island is a nine mile long beach island located in New Hanover County. The 1970 population of New Hanover and adjacent counties was 125,368. Main highways in this area are U.S. 421, U.S. 76, U.S. 74, U.S. 17, U.S. 117 and N.C. 132.

This 5,760 acre island is a part of the Outer Banks chain which lies between the ocean inlet at Carolina Beach and Wrightsville Beach.

Although the island has three distinctive areas, the ocean beach strand, the intra-coastal waterway beaches and the marsh areas between the ocean and the inland waterway, it is the marsh area that warrants particular consideration.

The marsh area represents an often-unappreciated visual attraction and shelters much of the commercial and sport fish life in its early beginnings. The marsh area also provides a haven for migratory bird life.

The establishment of this area as a Natural Area will insure the protection of a rapidly vanishing tidal-marsh area.

MEDOC MOUNTAIN FISHING CREEK

Fishing Creek is another one of the six rivers designated to be the initial components of a North Carolina Natural and Scenic River System. At this time, none have officially been named, but Fishing Creek still has high priority.

Fishing Creek originates northwest of Henderson in Vance County and flows southeastward through the eastern Piedmont and the Coastal Plain regions, touching six counties before emptying into the Tar River just north of Tarboro.

The reach being considered is about 35 miles in length and averages 60 feet in width. Water-level fluctuations are often dramatic. The creek level may either rise or fall as much as two to three feet within a 24-hour period.

Little Fishing Creek, a tributary fed by Bear Swamp, flows into its namesake at a point within the fall line. It shares the character of the upper reaches of Fishing Creek. The bottom is quite rocky and many rock outcrops provide vertical banks for this scenic stream. The most interesting and rugged section is where it winds past an area known as Medoc Mountain.

Medoc Mountain encompasses an area of approximately 2,000 acres of undulating, hilly terrain in Halifax County. This landmark of the eastern Piedmont is not really a mountain, but, because of the striking contrast to surrounding topography it is referred to as a "mountain."

The entire mountain-creek-swamp area is a prime natural garden. If preserved, it would provide some of the best and most varied opportunities for interpretation, nature study, and piscatorial sampling in this region of the state.

Main highways in this area are I-95, U.S. 301, U.S. 158, and U.S. 258. The 1970 population of Halifax, Edgecombe, Nash and adjacent counties was 277,244. The five-county area making up Region L (Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson, Halifax, Northhampton) has no state parks. Region L is one of seventeen state planning regions.

One of the most outstanding geologic features of the region is the fall line, a narrow belt that is the transition zone from the Piedmont to the Coastal Plain. In this zone, the older crystalline rocks, that are near the surface in the Piedmont, dip eastward beneath the sedimentary formations in the Coastal Plain. Streams flowing southeastward have eroded the sedimentary formations much more easily than the harder crystalline rocks, forming falls and rapids in this zone.

The area along Fishing Creek being considered for inclusion in the Natural and Scenic River program has two principal timber types. A pine-hardwood forest made up of loblolly pine, red and white oaks, hickory and sweet gum covers the higher land, and in some cases, the stream banks. In the low grounds adjoining the streams, the hardwood forest is made up of black gum, willows, sycamore, and white ash.

An abundance of fish exist in Fishing Creek, including red-breast sunfish, bluegill, largemouth bass, pickerel and Roanoke Bass.

Wildlife resources along Fishing Creek are composed of moderate to high populations of deer, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, oppos-

sum, turkey, quail and dove. Waterfowl are also present and utilize the stream and the seasonally flooded bottom lands.

Eight highway bridges divide the creek into sections ideally suited to float trips (by canoe or "jon" boat) of either half-day, full-day or even two-day duration.

The creek is inaccessible except at the bridges and from a few farm paths and logging roads. Because of the remoteness of the areas between the bridges, the aesthetic beauty probably is without peer in eastern North Carolina.

MERCHANT'S (WILLIAMS) MILLPOND

Merchant's Millpond is located in Gates County. The main highways are U.S. 158, U.S. 13, N.C. 32 and N.C. 27. The 1970 population of Gates and adjacent counties was 103,973. However, about 8 percent (411,000) of North Carolina's 5 million plus residents, many of whom are currently not being served by a park within a reasonable distance, will be influenced by a park here.

The overall area is an outstanding southern swamp forest with towering greenery dominated by massive gums and cypresses. There is an excellent stand of virgin Baldcypress, unique to the eastern United States.

The pond is characterized by dark waters and partially submerged, heavily buttressed Baldcypress, and gum trees draped with delicate Spanish Moss.

The swamp excels as a wildlife sanctuary. Wintering waterfowl are abundant — over sixty different birds were identified on two field trips. The Pronothnotary Warbler and the Osprey are two of the more outstanding birds. Deer, raccoons, opossums, skunks, bobcats, and rabbits find homes here. Fishing is excellent, with good catches of large-mouth bass, crappie, catfish, chain pickerel and anadromous shad reported.

Approximately 4,000 acres of pond, swamp and high ground are needed to insure optimum development and the protection of this area. There is an excellent opportunity for this area to become one of North Carolina's major State Parks.

There is a strong possibility that the millpond area (approximately 1,000 acres) will be deeded to the State if the State demonstrates a sincere interest in acquiring additional land necessary to protect the integrity of the site. The Merchant's Millpond swamp is in many ways one of North Carolina's rarest

ecological communities. Swamps of this quality provide truly outstanding habitats, but in most areas are being rapidly cut, drained or permanently altered in other ways.

MITCHELL'S MILL

Mitchell's Mill is located in northeastern Wake County. The main highways in this area are U.S. 401, U.S. 64, U.S. 1 and N.C. 96. The 1970 population of Wake and adjacent counties was 591,242.

The Little River flows through the area of interest (10-15 acres) and is joined by Cedar Fork Creek. Exposed granite surfaces known as flatrock dominate the area at Mitchell's Mill. Flatrocks are common to the Piedmont sections of the Southeastern states from Virginia to Alabama in a zone just west of the Fall Line some 700 miles in length and 120 miles in width. The exposure at Mitchell's Mill shows the typical smooth, unfaulted surface of homogeneous granite.

The woods are made up of White Oak, Black Oak, Mockernut Hickory, Scrub Pine, tall Loblolly Pine and Red Cedar (some very large) with fewer amounts of Post Oak, Sweetgum, and Shortleaf Pine. The understory includes American Holly, Flowering Dogwood, and Hawthorn. The damper woods contain Ironwood and other wet species, with a few notably large Sweetgums. Characteristic Jewelweed and Cardinal Flower were noted in the low areas. The stream edge and the pond contain arrowhead and cattails. Exposed rock surfaces demonstrate a succession of hardy and conservative plant species in a habitat alien to the species of the surrounding forest.

Mitchell's Mill (approximately 65 acres) is recommended as a Natural Area on the basis of its geologic and botanical significance. The habitat is studied regularly by students and faculty of nearby universities.

NAGS HEAD WOODS — JOCKEY'S RIDGE

The Nag's Head Woods-Jockey's Ridge area is located on the outer banks in Dare County. The 1970 population of Dare and adjacent counties was 63,976. Because of the rapid consumption of the land and ocean interfaces by commercial, industrial and recreational developments, this population figure is

almost meaningless; in fact, Jockey's Ridge is an east coast attraction. Main highways in this area are U.S. 64, U.S. 264, U.S. 158, and N.C. 12.

Jockey's Ridge, located at Nags Head, North Carolina is the highest sand dune on the east coast of the United States. Adjacent Nags Head Woods is a prime example of maritime forest having succeeded on old dunes comparable to Jockey's Ridge. Bulldozers started leveling the sound side of the ridge in February 1972. Irreparable loss of these two massive peaks of sand and the maritime forest is a strong possibility if the State fails to act and development continues.

NANTAHALA

The Nantahala area is located in Macon County. Access is over U.S. 64 and S.R. 1310. The 1970 population of Macon and surrounding counties was 73,314.

The area consists of approximately 6,000 acres and borders Lake Nantahala and encompasses several miles on both sides of the Nantahala River. The area is mountainous but offers good developmental opportunities in the bottoms along the river and around the lake.

The entire area is covered with a predominantly oak-hickory forest. Other species include yellow poplar, ashe, buckeye, hemlock, birch, maple and other miscellaneous species.

Lake Nantahala is a high altitude lake in a steep valley. At times, the deep water of the lake appears greenish-blue. Fortunately the shores of the lake have very little development.

The mountainous slopes on the northeast side of the river have been logged within the last three years but the remaining portion of the tract still has an excellent state of forest cover. The location of this outstanding tract is such that it would provide good public benefit from forest recreation and wildlife development.

SOUTH FORK NEW RIVER

South Fork New River is the last of the six rivers meeting the criteria of a North Carolina Natural and Scenic River System. At this time, none have officially been designated but the South Fork New River is still high priority.

The South Fork New River heads in Watauga County in the vicinity of Blowing Rock and flows generally northeastward through the Blue Ridge Mountains across Ashe County and joins

the North Fork New River near the North Carolina-Virginia state line. The reach of South Fork New River that is being considered extends from its headwaters near Blowing Rock to the headwaters of the proposed Blue Ridge project impoundment.

The entire drainage area for the South Fork New River is in the Blue Ridge province. Bedrock, more than 500 million years old, is exposed along reaches of the channel. The river is a part of the Ohio River Basin and drains to the Gulf of Mexico.

The main highways for access into the area are the Blue Ridge Parkway, U.S. 421, U.S. 221 and N.C. 113. The 1970 population of Watauga, Ashe and adjacent counties was 169,987.

The river is a small mouth bass habitat and provides good fishing. The river is accessible at almost any point. Many of the tributaries are designated as "public mountain trout waters" and produce excellent trout fishing.

Float fishing is possible from the town of Boone, downstream, with the section above Boone being easily accessible for wading.

The river from its origin to the backwater of the proposed impoundment meanders lazily through scenic pasture, meadow, and farmland. In some areas the watershed or shorelines are essentially primitive. On the other hand, the threat of pollution hangs over this outstanding resource. Presently, the treated waste discharged from Blowing Rock has only a slight influence on the headwaters of the South Fork New River.

SOUTH MOUNTAINS

This area of the South Mountains is located in Cleveland and Rutherford Counties. The 1970 population of Cleveland, Rutherford and adjacent counties was 334,460. Main highways in the area are I-40, U.S. 221, U.S. 64, N.C. 10, N.C. 182 and N.C. 226.

These are exciting mountains comprised of precipitous ridges, numerous rounded and pointed knobs, and intriguing network of streams, and a thorough cover of forest vegetation. The vistas and panoramic views from the higher elevations are exhilarating. On a clear day most of the Blue Ridge is visible to the north and west with the Linville Gap and Mount Mitchell quite evident. Kings Mountain and Crowders Mountain near the South Carolina border are visible to the south while the eastern view is dominated by the rolling piedmont.

The area pinpointed satisfies all of the evaluating criteria. The lower flat grades of the area range from elevations of 1,200' to 1,400' while the encompassing knobs and peaks range from 2,000' to 2,894'. This rugged terrain is dissected by beautiful, rhodo-

dendron and laurel-lined streams which cascade down from the mountains.

There is little recent disturbance by man on this site and most of his developments are already being reclaimed by nature.

The surrounding peaks, if included, would insure against visual encroachment and thus provide aesthetic control. They are also necessary for watershed control, and they provide excellent opportunity for hiking and nature study.

Last summer, a large timber company acquired 9,000 acres* of land adjacent to the site pinpointed by the state for a new park. The park site has the same type of mature forest and it is logical to conclude that it is also a prime target for the logger.

It is ironic that this area was first recognized for its park potential in the 1930's by the National Park Service. Although it is shameful that no land acquisition has taken place 40 years hence, there is still time. North Carolina may not have many more opportunities to place this land under the protection of the State Park System. It could be Now or Never!

WACCAMAW

Lake Waccamaw is an 8,938 acre Natural State Lake located in Columbus County. The main highways in this area are N.C. 211, U.S. 74, 76 and U.S. 701. The 1970 population of Columbus and surrounding counties was 172,305.

The location of a unit of the State Park System on the south shore of Lake Waccamaw has great merit. It would allow for the preservation and protection of a portion of the Waccamaw River, a large expanse of shoreline and a reasonable amount of swamp and low lands. The preservation of a portion of the river and the surrounding swamp is essential for maintaining both water quality and water volume.

Lake Waccamaw is particularly suited by its location, natural beauty, and potential for boating, swimming and other recreational activities for the creation of a State Recreation Area.

North Carolina has too long administered State Lakes without adjacent land ownership or in some cases even access. Enough high ground should be acquired to provide extensive recreational development at a reasonable cost. At the present time, there is enough high and dry quality forested land to provide for suitable recreational facilities to meet projected needs of the area.

*For lack of funds, the state could not acquire this 9,000 acre tract.

WHITE'S MILLPOND

White's Millpond is located in Halifax County. The 1970 population of Halifax and adjacent counties was 223,360. Main highways in this area are I-95, U.S. 301, U.S. 258, and N.C. 125.

This area, approximately 1,930 acres, is the site of an old millpond. (The dam has been rebuilt by a Federal Agency.) Adjacent to the millpond is a large upland forest of pine mixed with hardwoods. Low land borders the pond and is the site of gum and mature Baldcypress. The pond and shoreline are the home of varied fish and wildlife species.

The ecosystem of the millpond and the adjacent area is threatened by the possibility of future logging of the large upland forest. Much of the area has already been marked for cutting. Increased clearing of land for agricultural use is rapidly becoming a problem from the opposite side. Once the protective cover (buffer zone) of the pond is gone, this particular ecosystem will in all probability be lost.

WHITESIDE

Blackrock-Whiteside Mountain is located in Jackson County. Main highways in this area are U.S. 64 and N.C. 107. The 1970 population of Jackson and adjacent counties was 62,274.

The area, approximately 1,478 acres, is characterized by rugged topography with large rock outcrops. Open rock faces with lush moss growth and the cliffs above them lend themselves to an interpretive emphasis on soil formation and erosion. Views from these natural clearings afford panoramas of the surrounding mountains and ridges.

The vegetation is predominantly hardwoods with some areas of pine reforestation. Some trails and revegetated woods exist on the site which would facilitate hiking and nature study.

From bald areas on nearby mountains and from valley approaches concave overhanging cliffs can be seen. They provide an excellent introduction to a park that would emphasize hiking and nature study. There is adequate space for development of camping and picnicking facilities on the rounded hummocks under the southern face of Whiteside Mountain.

Florida developers have promoted rapid development in the Highlands-Cashiers area in the past five years. Numerous development advertisements and real estate offices indicate that the effort is still in high gear. Nevertheless, a Blackrock-Whiteside State Park is still a possibility if swift action is taken in designating and acquiring a site.

NOW OR NEVER AREAS (EXISTING)

BOONE'S CAVE (1,200 ACRES)

Rationale: The present size of 110 acres is below the accepted minimum of 600 acres for a North Carolina State Park. This particular site requires acquisition on both sides of the Yadkin River to insure against both physical and visual encroachment. The additional acreage is also needed to provide basic outdoor recreational facilities in keeping with our basic objective of preservation of a natural environment.

CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE (225 ACRES)

Rationale: Additional lands are needed to expand existing recreational facilities, round out boundaries, and protect the vista along the north bank of the Neuse River. Failure to secure the opposite bank will jeopardize the natural panoramic view from the Cliffs overlook and greatly diminish the park experience.

DUKE POWER (125 ACRES)

Rationale: This park is comprised of two non-contiguous parcels of land which creates special operational and management problems. Encroaching residential development poses control problems and threatens the integrity of the park. A special development committee of the North Carolina State Parks and State Forests Study Commission, established by the 1967 General Assembly, recommended that "it (Duke Power State Park) be closed unless additional land could be secured to make it a contiguous body of land."

HANGING ROCK (822 ACRES)

Rationale: A tract of land comprised of 552 acres, which is contiguous to the park, has been leased to the State of North Carolina for a number of years and has come to be considered a part of the park. This lease on the Vade Mecum Property expires in October, 1974. If the State does not acquire this land it will probably be developed residentially as have the surrounding properties. This would be a major loss to Hanging Rock State Park.

An additional tract of approximately 270 acres, also contiguous to the park, contains a beautiful water falls known as the Lower Cascades. The falls area possesses a unique floral community and outstanding rock outcropping. This area already shows the signs of human misuse due to uncontrolled access and lack of management. Public ownership is essential.

MASONBORO (5,960 ACRES)

Rationale: The addition of 200 acres to the present 441 park acres would provide a needed buffer against commercial encroachment. These acres contain significant habitat for the rare Venus Flytrap as well as several natural ponds possessing their own uniqueness in fauna and flora.

A prime natural area known as Masonboro Island is located near this park. This island of 5,760 acres of dunes, marshland and young maritime forest is totally in a natural condition, but is subject to development if not acquired. It would be operated and maintained as a natural area unit of the existing Masonboro State Park.

PETTIGREW

(1,000 ACRES)

Rationale: Additional lands are necessary to preserve the natural shoreline of this State owned lake and to unite two noncontiguous pieces of park land. Land is also needed to provide additional facilities for picnicking, camping, boating and swimming and to provide adequate access.

PILOT MOUNTAIN

(400 ACRES)

Rationale: A comprehensive Master Plan for this park calls for the rounding out of the boundaries at the mountain section for visual protection and the acquisition of buffer along U.S. 52. The plan also recommends the acquisition of Stony Ridge along the corridor which is a major land form between the mountain and river sections of the park. This site would provide a half-way point for day and overnight use of the 5-mile corridor.

RAVEN ROCK

(1,000 ACRES)

Rationale: This land is essential to complete Phase III of the acquisition program for this park. It serves to round out the boundaries and provide protection of the northside of the Cape Fear River, thus eliminating the possibility of visual encroachment. A Master Plan will be prepared governing all future use and development of this park, and further evaluate the total land needs.

STONE MOUNTAIN

(19,000 ACRES)

Rationale: This new park of 2,109 acres possesses a comprehensive Master Plan which calls for a major land acquisition program. Divided into five priority phases, the program is based on a grand concept of protecting the major land forms of the Stone Mountain area and preserving the land between the site and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The total land required exceeds 20,000 acres.

The plan states that "the amount of land now included in the State Park is woefully inadequate. The superlative potential of the aesthetic, recreational and interpretive values possessed by Stone Mountain area cannot be assured unless the land area of the State Park is very substantially increased."

"Only very limited public use facilities can be provided on the present State Park acreage. Such limited facilities will not only be inadequate to meet demand; the resulting over-use will seriously damage natural resources."

"In short, it is impossible to develop a really first class State Park on the present limited acreage."

Phase One acquisition, which is essential for the proper and orderly development described by the plan, requires an additional 5,000 acres. Acquisition of approximately 7,000 acres in Phase Two is essential to protect a major part of the Stone Mountain watershed, and to preserve the outstanding scenic qualities and natural amenities between the Mountain and the Blue Ridge Parkway to the north. The Third Phase, containing 2,500 acres, includes the remainder of the watershed to the east. Major features of Twin Knobs and Greenstreet Mountain, south of Stone Mountain, comprise the 3,000 acres of Phase Four. The last phase of acquisition, including about 1,800 acres to the west, would complete the expansion by tying into the Thurmond Chatham Game Land Area.

Stone Mountain's watershed would be completely controlled, thus assuring a high standard of water quality for wildlife and human use. The outstanding scenery viewed from the major rock faces of the Stone Mountain area would be preserved for posterity. The total project of 21,409 acres will give the State a Park of major proportions providing for public outdoor recreation on a grand scale while retaining a majority of the land in a natural or wilderness state.

WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD

(200 ACRES)

Rationale: With the construction of Interstate 40 along the southern boundary of the park there is a major change in circulation patterns. This will have a definite effect on the comprehensive planning for "Umstead". With the strong possibility of the major entrance to the park being shifted to the south, there exists the need to expand the boundaries to provide adequate visual protection and buffer thus preserving the natural introduction to this park.

NEVER AREAS

BEECH MOUNTAIN (AVERY COUNTY)

The 620 acres of the Beech Mountain Area was investigated in June, 1954. At that time the area was forested with an almost pure stand of beech, a great deal of which appeared to be virgin growth. Most of the growth under the beech forest was a native grass which gave the whole area a so-called "park-like" aspect that was attractive and appealing.

Topography of the area was remarkably flat considering the fact that it was at an elevation higher than 5,000 feet. Views from the area are especially fine and it is said that as many as seven states can be seen from the Pinnacle. The elevation of the Pinnacle is 5,506 feet.

The reason this area was not acquired in 1954 was that a number of other proposed areas had a higher priority.

Today Beech Mountain has been tastefully developed by Carolina Caribbean Corporation as an all-season resort community with "Eastern America's" highest and the Southeast's largest ski resort. The drawback is that economics prevents a certain portion of the states population from appreciating this magnificent site. Had the state acquired this area it would have been available to all North Carolinians for generations to come.

Source: "Report of Investigation of Area in Beech Mountain Proposed for a State Park". State Park files on Proposed Areas.

BIG SAVANNAH (PENDER COUNTY)

In 1949, the Big Savannah was a 1,500 acre prairie in Pender County. It stood as a unique plant community, with a distinctive flora unmatched in the United States.

Technically, the central portion of the Big Savannah was an upland grass-sedge bog. Sheltered trees and the park-like appearance typical of true savannah was found only around the periphery of the area. Nowhere else did it occur on this soil type (Portsmouth — very fine sandy loam).

The resulting investigation conducted on May 8, 1959, by the Chief Naturalist, was disheartening. Of the original 1,500 acres, at least 1,200 were now in cultivation. The land had successfully been drained and was producing strawberries, cucumbers, and other truck crops. The remaining 300 or less acres had not been burned for several years, but had been repeatedly mowed. The combination of these two factors brought about a great reduction in the number of plant species in the area and significantly reduced the vigor of many of the persisting species.

In 1959, even if the remaining uncultivated land had been purchased at a reasonable price, the area had been so altered that it could no longer be considered a "natural area". Wasn't a natural area unique to the entire United States worth more than a 1,200 acre truck-farm?

Source: State Park Files — "A Proposed State Park at the Big Savannah, Burgaw, N. C." A report by David A. Adams, Chief Naturalist, Division of State Parks.

BOGUE BANKS (CARTERET COUNTY)

Bogue Banks Island is located southwest of Morehead City, North Carolina. It is one of the chain of barrier banks found on the coast of the Carolina.

It was first proposed for acquisition by J. S. Holmes (State Forester) in 1923. The 12,000 acre island was evaluated at only \$5 per acre at that time. The Seashore Recreation Area Survey completed by the National Park Service in 1955 described the area west of Salter Path in almost the same terms used by a Division of State Parks investigation of 1935.

Roughly two-thirds of the Island was covered with dense, windswept woodland, dominated by the live oak in association with hornbeam, holly, red mulberry, laurel oak and devil's walking-stick. The dunes were up to 25 feet in height and generally stabilized. The area contained approximately 2,800 acres of land.

In the past 17 years Bogue Bank has been and continues to be the object of extensive development. Tourist oriented cities like Atlantic Beach and Salter Path flourish with trailer parks galore. Protective sand dunes have been bulldozed, the vegetation burned and replaced by condominiums, hotels, private clubs and parking lots.

Source: State Park Files on Proposed State Park (Bogue Bank) and Seashore Recreation Area Survey, p. 127.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN

(AVERY, WATAUGA, & CALDWELL COUNTIES)

On March 9, 1943, a bill authorizing purchase of Grandfather Mountain was approved by the Senate. A Committee to Consider the Feasibility of Purchase of Grandfather Mountain as a State Park conducted an investigation of the site in January, 1944.

One drawback of the Senate bill was it authorized the buying of not less than 3,000 acres of the Grandfather Mountain area at a set figure of \$10.00 per acre. The going price of the 3,000 acres was \$25.00 per acre at this time.

Grandfather Mountain and its contiguous, though more modest mate, Grandmother Mountain, comprise an almost virgin area of forest, flowers and cascades. Grandfather Mountain is a few feet short of 6,000 feet elevation and is one of the highest and most rugged peaks in the Blue Ridge range and is said to be geologically the most ancient of any mountains on the American continent.

Grandfather Mountain was not acquired in 1944 because the South Mountain area had a higher priority. It is ironic that neither Grandfather Mountain nor the South Mountain area were ever acquired for a State Park.

Today Grandfather Mountain has been commercially developed with an access road to the top of the Mountain. A visitor center is located there with gift shop, snack bar, museum exhibits and even an assembly hall.

The mile high swinging bridge joining the two peaks is an east coast attraction. Fortunately this facility is accessible to the average citizen, at a modest fee, and the developer has attempted to protect as much of the area as possible.

Source: State Park File on Proposed State Parks: "Report of the Committee to Consider the Feasibility of Purchase of Grandfather Mountain as a State Park".

SMITH ISLAND

(ALSO KNOWN AS BALDHEAD ISLAND)
(BRUNSWICK COUNTY)

Smith Island, often referred to as Baldhead Island, is located 2½ miles northwest of Southport. The Island was first proposed for State acquisition by J. S. Holmes, State Forester, in March 1937. House Bill 1282 dated March 23, 1937, even empowered the Department of Conservation and Development to acquire Smith Island at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The 11,900 acre Island could have been purchased for only \$5,000 in back taxes in Brunswick County in 1937. "... Smith Island may be purchased at a tax sale or otherwise with revenues from fees collected by said Department and/or from funds donated and appropriated to the said department . . ."

A 1955, study by the National Park Service (*Seashore Recreation Area Survey*) described Baldhead as one of the five most outstanding undeveloped areas for recreation purposes along the Atlantic Coast. "The Island has excellent vegetation cover and outstanding biological values. It is about 6 miles long with an average width of 2¼ miles. Baldhead contains about 11,900 acres of land, marsh, and fresh-water lakes. The two beaches about 5 miles long, are wide, with clean white sand and salt marsh, birds are more plentiful than on many other Atlantic Coast sea islands. The Island has outstanding historical values."

The conclusion of the survey classified Baldhead as an outstanding area with excellent qualifications for public seashore recreation purposes. As recent as 1955 it would not have been difficult or prohibitively expensive to acquire Baldhead.

Today the noise of bulldozers, power shovels, and other heavy equipment drowns out the calls of the gulls and the other birds. Digging and scraping, developers are attempting to remake Baldhead into another "Luxury Isle by the sea." Even though development may be tastefully and ecologically sound, the resort will be beyond the means of the majority of North Carolinians and once inhabited, will be sealed off to the general public.

Sources: State Park files on Proposed State Parks (Smith Island) Seashore Area Survey, p. 133.

LAKE TAHOMA AREA

(McDOWELL COUNTY)

The Lake Tahoma Area near Marion, North Carolina was investigated in January, 1938, by the National Park Service (Park, Parkway and Recreational-Area Study). The area was later proposed for State Park acquisition in March, 1945. 2,900 total acres (2,600 acres of land and 3,000 acres of water) were offered for sale at \$51.72 per acre or \$150,000, even though an investment of \$500,000 had been made (cost of land, dam, sewer and other improvements).

The National Park Service investigation disclosed that the lake was unique to the south. It appeared to be a natural lake and was at that time scenically beautiful, nestled in a cove at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains beside highway 104. The report further described the area as having excellent building sites with 10 to 12 acres suitable for development. In short, the area had a large number of possibilities for development as an extensive use area either for local and/or parkway tourist use.

However, the Lake Tahoma property was not acquired because the South Mountains project had a higher priority. Even though the South Mountain had such a high priority, acreage for a State Park in this area has yet to be acquired.

Lake Tahoma was subsequently highly and extensively developed by private concerns. Once again North Carolina failed to capitalize on a great opportunity to acquire an area that could benefit many North Carolinians.

Source: State Park Files: Proposed State Park (Lake Tahoma Area) *Report from Park and Parkway Recreation Area Study.*

RISE IN LAND COSTS

LAND PRICE ESCALATION

There has been a steady upward trend in land values almost everywhere in the Nation. In 1967, land values were rising generally throughout the Nation at a rate of from 5 percent to 10 percent per annum.¹

Recreation land acquisition is handicapped because the cost of recreational land is increasing at an even faster rate. Land price escalation is primarily the result of:

1. A rising trend in land values generally throughout the Nation.
2. Keen competition between individuals, developers, and public agencies for prime recreation lands, particularly those which are water oriented; and
3. The upgrading of lands as a result of change in land use, i.e., in many cases from normal agricultural land to prime recreation land with frontage on water or easy access thereto.²

The best documented case study of land escalation in a recreation area was the Pearl River Reservoir near Jackson, Mississippi. The study, "An Analysis of the Influence of the Pearl River Reservoir on Land Prices in the Reservoir Area," dated May 25, 1964, and prepared by a private contractor, was made for the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, an agency of the State of Mississippi.

The average price paid per acre of lands adjacent to the project showed an average annual increase of slightly less than 9 percent prior to announcement of the project in March, 1959. After the project was announced, prices increased 165 percent the first year, 191 percent the second year, 216 percent the third year, 236 percent the fourth year, and 258 percent for the first half of the fifth year (through May 15, 1964) when the study was concluded. The sales prices per acre for the control area from 1950 through 1964 continued to follow a normal price trend there.³ News of a State's interest in land acquisition cannot be kept secret very long. Frequently it is public knowledge before the state has even obtained the necessary funds. Speculators usually have a field day.

One of the areas recommended as a National Seashore in 1935 was 30 miles long and could have been purchased for \$260,000. Less than 9 miles remained undeveloped in 1955, and the cost of purchasing the land then was more than \$1,000,000 — an in-

crease in value of 1200 percent in 20 years.⁴

The increasing costs of recreation lands is becoming a problem even though such spectacular increases that occurred in the Pearl River Reservoir Area are unusual. Furthermore, there is considerable regional, state and local variance in land costs. In North Carolina for instance, seashore and mountain areas are increasingly becoming susceptible to land speculation.

In 1915, 1,224 acres were purchased for the establishment of Mount Mitchell State Park for \$20,000 or only \$16.34 per acre. However, in 1962, the State had to pay \$2,549 per acre for a 51 acre tract adjacent to the entrance of the park.⁵

Baldhead Island (11,900 acres) sold for \$45,000 in 1916. In 1955 the value of Baldhead had increased to \$342,700. Today its estimated value is in the millions. (It should be pointed out that the State had the opportunity to acquire Baldhead Island for only \$5,000 for back taxes in 1938).⁶

In 1923, the price per acre of land on Bogue Banks was estimated at \$5/acre by county officials. However, in 1954, 4,000 acres sold for \$350,000. In 1965, ocean front lots sold for \$47,800 or \$6,828 per acre. Interior lots sold for \$52,000 or \$6,679 per acre.⁷

From 1967-72 residential property values increased 10-20% annually. For instance, ocean lots at a new community sold for \$50,000 ($\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ acres) or \$75,000-\$80,000/acre. This is an increase from \$15,000 in 1967. Back lots sold for \$24,000, an increase from \$7,000 and center lots for \$11,000.⁸

It is against this background of general rise in land values and land speculation that states must acquire land. It is to the State's advantage to acquire recreation lands as quickly as possible not only to insure environmental integrity but also for a substantial economic savings.

FOOTNOTES

1. *Recreation Land Price Escalation*. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. 1967, pp. 8.
2. *Ibid.*, Pp. 4.
3. *Ibid.*, Pp. 10-12.
4. *Seashore Recreation Area Survey*. National Park Service. 1955, pp. 8.
5. State Parks Files on "Potential State Parks".
6. *Ibid*
7. Carteret County Tax Records: Tax Maps MO 47B-4 and MO 47B-2.
8. Interview with Mr. Donald Brock, Pine Knoll Shores Manager, July 13, 1972.

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

Traditionally, the role of providing recreational opportunities has been the responsibility of the people represented by their government. Prior to the 1930's for instance, most land for parks was obtained by setting aside land from the public domain. During the long history of State Park financing, many states have attempted many different programs with varying levels of success. However, there are three basic financing philosophies that characterize all of these financing programs — the "All Pay" Philosophy, the "Self-supporting" Philosophy and the "Play Now — Pay Later" Philosophy.¹

Financing of park developments and operations was carried out by taxation and general appropriations under the "All Pay" philosophy. In 1865, the State of California began providing funds by appropriation for State Park programs, setting the precedent for such expenditures. Several neighboring States are now using generous annual appropriations to help finance massive Capital Improvement Programs. For instance, Tennessee appropriated \$20.7 million in the 6 year period from 1964 to 1970. Virginia appropriated \$5.8 million and South Carolina \$12.1 million during the same period.²

One branch of the "All Pay" philosophy was the "User Pay" concept. The States of Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas initiated fish and game license fees with specific allocations of all or parts of such revenue to their State Park System.

Another facet of the "All Pay" philosophy was initiated by the belief that the sale and removal of natural resources should help finance parks. Indiana and California initiated programs of special taxes on the sale of natural resources and specifically allocated these funds to the development of park systems. These States believed that natural resources were available for the good of all people and that all people should benefit from the removal or sale of these resources. In recent years, oil revenues have decreased in California. Funds have to be appropriated, as transfers from the oil royalty account do not cover operating expenses.³

In the 1930's, another traditional philosophy (non-profit or self-supporting) began to change as people realized that refreshment stands, accommodations, and a variety of other facilities and services for the enjoyment of the park visitor could be operated and should be operated by the park agency or concessionaires of the agency. In the early sixties, Indiana functioned

entirely on operation income. Admission fees produced about 42 percent of total revenues; State operation about 20 percent; and concessionaires' fees about 32 percent. These three sources furnished about 94 percent of the system's annual receipts. But when Indiana wished to expand its park system, it had to go to the legislature for appropriations.⁴

No park system can be entirely self-supporting. Although there have been instances where State Park Systems have become self-supporting with respect to operating income, they still must receive additional funds (appropriations) as in Indiana's case. Furthermore, budgeting for Capital Improvements from operating income is unrealistic, especially when these funds are usually insufficient to provide for current needs.

The third philosophy is "Play Now — Pay Later". Prior to the 1930's there was very limited borrowing of money to acquire land for parks, to improve and expand park facilities, or to operate and maintain parks. Through taxes, funds were collected, and when the funds were actually in the public till, they were appropriated for the many public services to be rendered. In the matter of land acquisition, as stated before, most lands for parks were made available by dedication from the public domain, and an increasing amount of park land was dedicated by gift and donations.⁵ Historically, North Carolina has relied on private gifts from philanthropic citizens and transfers of publicly-owned land for 72% of its State Park acreage.⁶ This method is no longer adequate to meet either the increasing demand for outdoor recreation facilities or to insure the protection of outstanding natural areas threatened by commercial development, timber harvest, mining claims and so forth. At the present rate of donations, it would take about 100 years to add the 58,000 acres recommended by the State Parks and State Forests Study Commission.

FOOTNOTES

1. Hines, Thomas I., *Recreation and Park Finance*, page 8.
2. State Park Files (Questionnaires sent to all fifty states in 1969) and *State Park Statistics*, pages 10-12.
3. Hines, Loc. cit., page 9.
4. ORRRC Study Report 12, *Paying For Recreation Facilities*, page 66.
5. Hines, Loc. cit., page 9.
6. State Parks and State Forest Study Commission, *N. C. State Parks for the Future*, page 12.
7. Hines, Loc. cit., page 9.

Following the depression years of the 1930's and the restrictions imposed on civilians and civil projects by World War II, the nation embarked on an era of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity. Those commodities which Americans did not have the cash to purchase were easily obtained by extension of credit. This change in attitude was reflected in government financing. Bond issues began to be used for every manner of public works improvement: for highways, schools, hospitals, and for parks.⁷

The ability of a State to issue bonds offers an attractive alternative to deferring a land acquisition program until funds are available from current revenue. Kentucky was an early advocate of the bond issue to raise funds for Capital Improvements. In 1960, a \$100 million general obligation bond issue was passed. \$10 million was specifically earmarked for State Park usage. In 1968, Tennessee also successfully passed a \$10 million bond issue. Georgia passed separate bond issues in 1964, 1965 and 1968 for a combined figure of \$10.8 million for her Capital Improvement program.⁸

The immediate use of bond issue funds to finance land acquisition can avoid some of the increase in costs due to land speculation and at the same time insure the acquisition of areas in imminent danger of development. A Research Triangle Study, Planning for State Parks and State Forests in North Carolina, illustrates the comparative costs of financing a \$40 million program, by bonds, by deferred appropriations, and by direct appropriation. If bonds had been issued in 1967, the total cost of a \$40 million program would have been \$59 million, a 48% increase in the base price. A deferred program (waiting until current revenue is available) would have cost \$66.8 million, an increase of 67.2%.⁹

On the other hand, the use of direct appropriations in 1967 could have led to a possible savings of either \$19 million or \$26.8 million respectively.*

The philosophy of the present time in park and recreation financing appears to be that funds for operation, maintenance, and administration of parks will continue to rely upon taxes and appropriations; however, the importance of revenue-producing facilities in providing funds for operations and securing revenue bonds for Capital Improvements is increasing.¹⁰

Many States have found it convenient to utilize both appropriations and revenue bonds to acquire necessary capital improvements funds. Georgia's three separate bond issues were supplemented by \$1.6 million in appropriations. \$5 million were appropriated to supplement Tennessee's \$10 million bond issue. However, no matter what funding alternative is finally decided upon, it is imperative to all North Carolinians that substantial funds be made available as soon as possible.¹¹

FOOTNOTES

8. Loc. cit., State Park files

9. Rulison, Michael v.E., *Planning for State Parks and State Forests in North Carolina*, pages 145-146.

10. Hines, Loc. cit., page 10.

11. State Park files, Loc. cit.

*This conclusion is based upon the assumption of bonds being issued at 3.5 percent interest and interest payments being made for the first five years, then debt retirement occurring in equal payments over the next 15 years. These assumptions oversimplify the actual procedures of the State Treasurer's Office but represent the policy, namely; of leveling debt service from year to year as much as feasible and of utilizing most of the present 20-year maximum retirement period, with the bulk of the retirement occurring during the latter part of this period.

PREVIOUS APPROPRIATIONS

Year	North Carolina	South Carolina	Virginia	Tennessee	Georgia
Prior to 1947	105,509	—	—	—	—
1947	500,000	—	—	—	—
1949	1,074,144	—	—	—	—
1957	608,000	—	—	—	—
1959	480,500	—	—	—	—
1963	714,220	—	—	—	—
Sub-Total	\$3,482,373				
1964	714,220	36,710	147,000	500,000	669,262
1965	429,460	18,577	147,000	2,250,000	382,764
1966	429,460	125,840	763,925	2,250,000	154,188
1967	319,740	198,043	763,925	2,250,000	637,760
1968	319,740	275,521	945,750	2,250,000	522,318
1969	424,250	9,378,252	945,750	2,250,000	1,926,622
1970	424,250	2,097,381	2,110,451	9,000,000	379,513
1971	500,000				
1972	500,000				
Sub-Total	\$4,061,120	\$12,130,324	\$5,823,801	\$20,750,000 ¹	\$4,672,427 ²
TOTAL	\$7,543,493				

NOTE: Questionnaires sent to all fifty states in 1969 only requested Capital Improvement appropriations figures for a six-year period.

For years 1964-17, one-half of each biennial appropriation is given as the yearly figure.

¹ In addition to Capital Improvement funds, Tennessee had a \$10 million Bond Issue in 1968-1969.

² In addition to Capital Improvement funds, Georgia received the following funds through Bond Issues: 1964 — \$2,300,000; 1965 — \$1,500,000; 1968 — \$7,000,000.

DEFINITIONS

*PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE PARK AREAS

I. SELECTION

To assure the accomplishment of the basic purposes in accordance with the best standards, State Park Areas of the North Carolina State Park System shall possess the values and qualities herein described:

1. Qualities for Eligibility

Sites selected as State Parks, evaluated on a State-wide basis, shall possess distinctive natural and scenic values and excellent opportunities for the development of facilities for low-density, resource-based outdoor recreation.

Distinctive scenic value implies rare natural scenery of State wide importance and interest which is unlikely to be preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of the public in this and future generations if the property remains in private ownership.

2. Location

State Park Areas shall be located demo-geographically so as to be readily accessible to as large a population as possible while still meeting the required standards of distinctive scenic value.

3. Size

Every State Park area shall be of sufficient size to:

- a. Completely include the distinctive features or landscape units the area was established to conserve and protect
- b. Provide sufficient buffer area to protect the distinctive scenic and natural features from outside influences or encroachments
- c. Provide satisfactory habitat for indigenous flora and fauna
- d. Permit optimum development for low-density, outdoor recreational use and to accommodate these developments in such a way so as not to damage or impair the distinctive natural features for which the area was selected.

These areas shall possess a minimum of 600 acres. Existing State Parks should be enlarged to meet this minimum size requirement.

*These are proposed principles and have yet to be approved by the policy makers. They are revisions of the effective policies which are being proposed to accommodate an expanded State Park System.

*PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE NATURAL AREAS

I. SELECTION

Selection of Natural Areas for inclusion in the North Carolina State Park System shall be governed by the principles and criteria herein described:

1. Qualities for Natural Area Eligibility

State Natural Areas shall be those areas which

- a. Best portray some specific natural process in a clear and conclusive manner
- b. Possess unique or unusual natural features of scientific importance
- c. Contain some outstanding examples of native flora and fauna or other outstanding natural objects, conditions, or phenomena
- d. Support vanishing, rare, or restricted species of flora or fauna
- e. or Possess unique or exceptional scenic value

any of which is unlikely to be preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of the public if the property remains in private ownership.

2. Size

Sites selected as Natural Areas shall be of sufficient size to:

- a. Substantially or completely include the natural features the area is established to preserve and protect
- b. Provide sufficient buffer area to protect the natural features from outside influences or encroachment
- c. Permit the development of interpretive facilities if these can be provided without damage or impairment of the primary natural features.

3. Location of Natural Areas

Intrinsic features will determine the location of Natural Areas. These areas must necessarily be established where the values justifying their acquisition exist regardless of geographic location. Where zones located within existing State Park Areas or State Recreation Areas qualify for Natural Area status, they shall be so designated and protected.

*These are proposed principles and have yet to be approved by the policy makers. They are revisions of the effective policies which are being proposed to accommodate an expanded State Park System.

*PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE RECREATION AREAS

I. SELECTION

To assure the accomplishment of the basic purposes in accordance with the best standards, State Recreation Areas of the North Carolina State Park System shall possess the values and qualities herein described:

1. Qualities for Eligibility

Sites selected as State Recreation Areas shall possess features of unusual value for outdoor recreational activity in natural surroundings.

This requirement refers to the presence of features such as, but not restricted to, topography, vegetation, streams, lakes, reservoirs or seashore, which afford excellent potential for outdoor recreation facilities.

2. Location and Justification

State Recreation Areas should be located regionally and should be readily accessible to as large a population as possible while offering developable recreation potential in natural surroundings. They should be selected and developed for the purpose of providing adequate, non-urban recreational opportunities readily accessible to the people. These areas shall provide recreational opportunities beyond the responsibility of the State's political subdivisions and are not intended to supplant local responsibilities and obligations. Areas which would compete directly with existing or proposed parks and recreation

programs in the vicinity, or which have inherent characteristics or development possibilities of only local interests, or which serve only local needs, shall not be added to the State Park System.

3. Size

Every State Recreation Area shall be of sufficient size to:

- a. Allow proper development for recreational use while protecting against destruction of the site's natural features.
- b. Provide sufficient buffer to protect the natural and recreational value of the area from outside influences and encroachments.
- c. Provide satisfactory habitat for indigenous wildlife.
- d. Amply accommodate optimum outdoor recreation development in a manner such that the various uses will not interfere with each other or destroy the effect of the natural surroundings.

These areas shall possess a minimum of 600 acres of land well adapted to outdoor recreation use and development. Existing State Recreation Areas should be enlarged to meet this minimum size requirement.

*These are proposed principles and have yet to be approved by the policy makers. They are revisions of the effective policies which are being proposed to accommodate an expanded State Park System.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NORTH CAROLINA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. **Short title.** — This article shall be known by the title, "Natural and Scenic Rivers Act of 1971".

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** — The General Assembly finds that certain rivers of North Carolina possess outstanding natural, scenic educational, geological, recreational, historic, fish and wildlife, scientific and cultural values of great present and future benefit to the people. The General Assembly further finds as policy the necessity for a rational balance between the conduct of man and the preservation of the natural beauty along the many rivers of the State. This policy includes retaining the natural and scenic conditions in some of the State's valuable rivers by maintaining them in a free-flowing state and to protect their water quality and adjacent lands by retaining these natural and scenic conditions. It is further declared that the preservation of certain rivers or segments of rivers in their natural and scenic condition constitutes a beneficial public purpose.

Section 3. **Definitions.** — (a) "River" means a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

(b) "Free-flowing", as applied to any river or section of a river means existing or flowing in natural condition without substantial impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.

Section 6. **Criteria for System.** — For the inclusion of any river or segment of river in the Natural and Scenic Rivers System, the following criteria must be present:

(a) **River segment length** — must be no less than one (1) mile.

(b) **Boundaries** — of the system shall be the visual horizon or such distance from each shoreline as may be determined to be necessary by the Director, but shall not be less than twenty (20) feet.

(c) **Water quality** — shall not be less than that required for Class "C" waters as established by the North Carolina Board of Water & Air Resources.

(d) **Water flow** — shall be sufficient to assure a continuous flow and shall not be subjected to withdrawal or regulation to the extent of substantially altering the natural ecology of the stream.

(e) **Public access** — shall be limited, but may be permitted to the extent deemed proper by the Director, and in keeping with the purpose of this article.

Source: *Report and Recommendations of the Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Committee*. Natural, Scenic and Recreational River Committee.

TRAILS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING GOALS

The values of park areas have long been recognized; however, the usual interpretation of these has been in terms of blocks of land and water acreage. Only recently have the values of *linear parks* taken a prominent place in recreational planning. Trails represent a major opportunity to satisfy the demand for outdoor recreation. By their nature, they afford a low concentration, dispersed type of recreation that is much sought after today. Trails are the means to some of the most beneficial kinds of exercise — walking, hiking, horseback riding, and cycling. Emphasis and priority should be given to trail development where population pressure is greatest.

Trail resources are related to each of the three broad categories of goals for North Carolina outdoor recreation planning; and trail resources have a significant role to play in meeting each of the specific goals listed under the three broad categories. Specific relationships of trail resources and opportunities to meeting these goals are outlined below.

A. Provision of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Trails, or linear parks, are recognized as an essential component of the total outdoor recreation resource in North Carolina. Thus, it is recognized that —

1. Trail opportunities should be provided to all citizens and visitors without respect to sex, color, or residence; and that special efforts should be made in order to provide opportunities for meaningful and enjoyable trail experiences for the mentally and physically handicapped.
2. Trails should be distributed geographically to be readily accessible to the population.
3. In the planning, development and management of trail resources, stress should be placed on providing for the highest possible quality of trail experience.
4. Trails are essential in providing for a variety of recreation opportunities. Also, various types of trails — walking, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling — in a variety of settings are essential in providing opportunities for satisfying differing tastes for outdoor recreation as fully as possible.
5. A high degree of competence — by virtue of education or experience — in those persons responsible for planning and administration of trails is essential.
6. Trails — as an essential component of the total outdoor recreation resource — should be recognized as a necessary

public expenditure at both the State and local levels of government. Also, the development and management of trails by the private sector should be encouraged.

7. Continuing research and education are necessary in order that the public may derive the most benefit from present and future trail resources.

B. Acquisition, Preservation, and Maintenance for Environmental Quality

Trails have a significant role to play in the total programs of acquisition, preservation, and maintenance for environmental quality. Specifically —

1. Trails are one of the most effective means whereby present and future generations can enjoy the natural, scenic, and historic/cultural features of North Carolina. It is, therefore, recognized that trails offer a highly feasible means of (1) preserving areas in a natural and/or historic state, while, at the same time (2) making them accessible.
2. Trails are an excellent means of providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the increasing urban population of North Carolina. Urban trails are of increasing importance as our urban areas increase — both in numbers and in density. Also, trails offer an excellent means of providing linkage between highly urbanized areas and outlying natural and scenic areas.
3. Trails are a logical means of providing access to the public domain. Trails (walking, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling) are essential in providing for public access to the ocean, to rivers and streams, to estuaries and sounds, and to inland lakes and reservoirs.
4. In the total effort of improving the environment, trails and their use offer a means of —
 - a. Improving health, and thus the quality of life, by providing a means of exercise.
 - b. Lessening pollution by providing opportunities for transportation independent of automobiles, i.e., walking, hiking, and bicycling.
 - c. Improving one's "state of mind" by providing opportunities to get away from congested urban areas, and to enjoy natural, scenic and historic/cultural areas.

Source: *Resources for Trails in North Carolina*. Robert L. Buckner, pages 7-9.

BASIC LAND DATA

Area	Year Established	Total Acres	Acreage Acquisition State Funds	Gifts	Lake Acreage Within Parks	Leased Acreage	County
Boone's Cave	1971	110		110			Davidson
Cliffs of Neuse	1945	572	207	365			Wayne
Duke Power	1962	1,328		1,328			Iredell
Fort Macon	1924	385		385			Carteret
Hammocks Beach	1961	892		892			Onslow
Hanging Rock	1935	4,040 ¹	164	3,096		770	Stokes
Jones Lake	1939	2,208		1,669	539		Bladen
Masonboro	1969	441	331			110	New Hanover
Morrow Mountain	1936	4,135	1,483	2,590		62	Stanly
Mount Jefferson	1956	540	76	464			Ashe
Mount Mitchell	1916	1,469	1,469				Yancey
Pettigrew	1939	769 ²	66	703			Washington & Tyrrell
Pilot Mountain	1968	3,540		3,540			Surry
Raven Roek	1970	1,084	915	169			Harnett
Roosevelt Natural Area	1972	265		265			Carteret
Singletary Lake	1939	1,221		649	572		Bladen
Stone Mountain	1969	2,109	1,691	418			Wilkes
William B. Umstead	1943	5,217	264	4,953			Wake
Weymouth Woods	1963	413	10	403			Moore
		30,738	6,676	21,999	1,111	942	

(Existing State Lakes)
(Not Within State Parks)

	Acres
Bay Tree ³	1,418
Lake Phelps	16,600
Little Singletary	1,000
Waccamaw	8,938
White	1,068
	29,024

1. Includes 10 acres of artificial water.

2. 8.61 acres transferred to Mrs. Davenport, April 12, 1972 (C & D Board Action)

3. Formerly Black Lake, Name Changed May, 1972 (C & D Board Action)

SOURCE: Division of State Parks

STATE PARK PUBLIC USE RECORD

Year	Total Attendance	Picnickers	Camper Days Tent & Trailer	Camper Days Organized	Swimmers	Hikers	Cabin Days	Fishing	Boating
1949	746,867	166,684	3,436	NA	52,868	18,250	6,038	26,244	5,638
1950	1,116,741	254,171	4,441	17,191	86,160	28,606	4,415	39,942	8,504
1951	1,178,039	274,347	5,207	26,357	116,804	46,052	6,568	55,195	NA
1952	1,345,431	312,025	4,228	25,790	117,140	47,667	7,195	58,960	NA
1953	1,224,237	338,262	6,281	23,638	105,203	52,158	1,951	29,351	11,496
1954	1,618,126	370,296	8,959	26,917	195,662	63,543	3,979	41,952	14,081
1955	1,530,726	373,473	12,172	22,960	142,275	62,911	4,362	27,521	10,348
1956	1,549,702	414,266	15,406	21,281	124,795	70,127	3,992	29,784	13,575
1957	1,464,115	426,867	21,484	24,680	147,284	89,624	4,195	36,004	10,727
1958	1,568,249	447,530	31,997	27,224	204,874	94,429	4,700	67,141	13,449
1959	1,510,780	426,664	37,442	19,413	187,464	95,395	5,132	59,840	13,700
1960	1,658,767	445,419	43,690	26,659	196,010	90,922	5,185	62,793	14,186
1961	1,665,502	443,270	45,510	26,733	191,147	100,850	5,456	55,081	13,503
1962	1,628,769	405,837	45,017	24,460	186,868	131,134	5,733	43,741	9,280
1963	1,817,152	461,910	51,278	25,701	192,214	160,578	5,806	50,425	22,260
1964	1,892,138	471,123	57,948	24,904	194,054	159,099	5,653	46,614	24,971
1965	2,092,519	529,919	61,224	26,560	196,501	176,826	5,550	52,905	29,258
1966	2,182,300	539,790	66,398	22,479	208,707	187,757	5,531	67,287	35,078
1967	2,124,186	510,509	68,682	25,570	193,489	138,782	5,942	69,084	31,786
1968	2,296,490	590,723	70,337	25,190	235,562	211,103	6,833	70,148	34,490
1969	2,499,354	633,762	67,428	27,310	268,425	245,725	6,710	76,432	28,225
1970	2,536,918	590,496	71,216	26,396	279,823	260,618	6,592	81,561	28,589
1971	2,762,565	639,652	75,175	25,887	235,498	279,275	7,106	79,409	27,885
1972	2,935,589	652,085	85,329	27,048	280,216	308,239	6,777	103,944	35,904
TOTAL	42,945,262	10,719,080	960,285	570,348	4,339,043	3,120,270	131,401	1,331,358	436,933

Source: State Park Public Use and Attendance Records.

BUDGET REQUESTS

The Division of State Parks presented a Capital Improvement Budget of \$16,122,400 to the Advisory Budget Committee for the 1973-75 biennial.

Improvements to existing facilities at State Parks..\$	1,121,000.00
Expansion of existing facilities at State Parks.....	588,000.00
Land Acquisition — 10 new State Parks.....	7,060,000.00
10 existing State Parks.....	4,440,000.00
New facilities for State Parks.....	2,913,400.00
	<u>\$16,122,400.00</u>

LAND ACQUISITION — 10 NEW STATE PARKS AND 10 EXISTING STATE PARKS

New State Parks

Black Lake (Baytree Lake)	Bladen County	\$ 240,000
Crowders Mountain	Gaston County	500,000
Dismal Swamp	Camden County	200,000
Eno	Orange County	300,000
Goose Creek	Beaufort County	1,000,000
Merchants Mill Pond	Gates County	420,000
Nash County	Nash & Halifax Counties	2,000,000
Sandhills	Moore County	400,000
South Mountain	Rutherford & Cleveland Counties	1,500,000
*Yadkin River	Davidson, Yadkin, Surry, Forsyth, Davie	500,000
		<u>\$ 7,060,000</u>

Existing State Parks

Boone's Cave State Park	Davidson & Davie Counties	120,000
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park	Wayne County	50,000

Duke Power State Park	Iredell County	70,000
Hanging Rock State Park	Stokes County	100,000
Lake Waccamaw	Columbus County	100,000
Masonboro Island State Park	New Hanover County	1,500,000
Pettigrew State Park	Washington & Tyrrell Counties	200,000
Pilot Mountain State Park	Surry & Yadkin Counties	50,000
Raven Rock State Park	Harnett County	250,000
Stone Mountain State Park	Wilkes & Alleghany Counties	2,000,000
		<u>\$ 4,440,000</u>

Total of New and Existing Parks \$11,500,000

*The "Yadkin River Study" was completed by third and fourth year students in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the School of Design, North Carolina State University in May, 1971. The goal of the study was to describe a process to preserve, as a natural amenity, a river that was being threatened by urbanization and pollution.

The concept of a linear park developed as a result of the study and was later accepted by the Board of Conservation and Development. However, since the student project met with such strong criticism from land owners along the River, the linear park concept was dropped.

The request for funds for a Yadkin River project was left in the Budget because the Division already had 2 areas along the Yadkin River in need of additional acreage. Furthermore, additional park areas were currently being investigated along the 60 miles between the aforementioned areas.

Source: State Park Budget Requests.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Population size is the basic factor determining amount of recreation participation. Coupled with population size are such factors as age structure, location of residence, income, leisure and mobility.

POPULATION

Year	Total Population	Migration	Natural Increase
1950 (a)	4,061,929	—8.1%	20.2%
1960 (a)	4,556,155	—2.01	7.86
1965 (b)	4,822,568	—1.01	6.39

(a) April 1; (b) July 1.

AGE STRUCTURE

Age Group	% of Total Population		Change	
	1960	1970		
Under 20	1,933,003	1,972,177	139,174	2 %
20-44	1,507,679	1,697,065	189,386	12.5
45-64	812,384	998,697	186,313	22.9
Over 64	303,089	414,120	111,031	36.6
	4,556,155	5,082,059	525,904	11.5

PER CAPITAL INCOME

Year	Income	Change		Consumer Price Index
1958	\$1,420			100.7
1962	1,732	\$312.00	21.9%	105.7
1966	2,277	545.00	31.4	113.1
1970	3,208	931.00	40.8	141.0

INDUSTRY — NEW AND EXPANDED

Year	Investment New	(in 000's) Expanded	Employees	
			New	Expanded
1960-64	\$ 723,908	\$ 806,810	83,936	68,210
1965-69	1,491,969	1,523,401	85,672	75,963
1970-71	580,884	753,320	27,702	20,307
TOTAL	\$2,796,761	\$3,083,531	197,310	164,470

HIGHWAY MILEAGE

	January 1970	1972
Primary		
Rural	11,662.09	11,767.19
Municipal	1,540.88	1,547.88
Secondary		
Rural	58,375.00	58,964.70
Municipal	2,047.93	2,088.68

MOTOR VEHICLES

Year	Auto & Truck Registration
1960	1,704,203
1961	1,771,913
1962	1,838,693
1963	1,922,792
1964	2,011,682
1965	2,136,003
1966	2,286,369
1967	2,402,363
1968	2,534,166
1969	2,635,751
1970	2,742,673
1971	2,915,037
Increase	1,210,834 (71.0%)

AGRICULTURE

Year	Acres of Harvested and Idle Cropland	Farm Population (January 1)	Estimated Farm Income
1960	6,571,330	1,268,162	NA
1961	6,538,559	1,178,473	1,188,047,064
1962	6,356,736	1,107,051	1,274,195,414
1963	6,276,872	1,040,512	1,317,087,587
1964	6,217,682	1,010,696	1,386,376,146
1965	6,203,137	963,878	1,388,513,573
1966	6,286,095	930,717	1,481,498,195
1967	6,317,589	935,594	1,510,780,586
1968	6,109,411	918,368	1,471,791,154
1969	6,007,789	878,472	1,712,781,656
1970	6,093,174	841,550	1,743,405,095
1971	NA	809,134	1,674,014,336

Change in Farm Population: —459,028

EDUCATION — ENROLLMENT

Year	Public Schools	Community Colleges (Fall)	Higher Education Public and Private
1960-61	1,123,829	NA	NA
1961-62	1,141,641	NA	NA
1962-63	1,162,171	NA	NA
1963-64	1,186,243	NA	NA
1964-65	1,201,139	NA	NA
1965-66	1,204,351	NA	NA
1966-67	1,208,112	NA	67,844
1967-68	1,218,188	67,683	70,907
1968-69	1,220,636	93,169	73,353
1969-70	1,191,576*	117,562	75,257
1970-71	1,184,688	144,828	80,161
1971-72	1,171,351	150,552	85,810
Change in Enrollment		82,869 (122.4%)	17,972 (26.4%)

*Decline in Public School Enrollment due to decline of birth rate and increasing enrollment in private schools.

EMPLOYMENT — LABOR FORCE

								High School	
							Avg. Wkly.	Grade	
Year	Total Employment	Manufacturing	Non- Manufacturing	Public Administration	Agriculture	Other	Rate of Unemployment	Earnings/ Worker	Entering Labor Force
1962	1,748,000	533,140	556,435	172,100	270,100	216,225	5.3%	\$ 74.16	47.5%
1963	1,795,000	541,100	573,385	184,350	269,400	226,765	5.2	76.36	48.1
1964	1,828,600	563,150	596,820	190,350	245,800	232,480	4.8	80.18	46.9
1965	1,886,700	597,700	629,800	196,500	227,800	234,900	4.2	83.99	44.4
1966	1,973,600	645,710	679,660	207,530	208,900	231,800	3.2	88.51	42.6
1967	2,010,100	665,980	701,320	217,100	197,050	228,650	3.4	92.77	43.4
1968	2,064,200	694,060	736,690	226,950	178,200	228,300	3.2	100.09	41.3
1969	2,159,600	722,050	773,580	254,370	172,400	237,200	2.9	106.45	40.1
1970	2,195,200	724,000	797,900	267,900	166,200	239,200	3.7	112.90	38.0
1971	2,223,200	723,170	825,130	267,200	163,700	244,000	3.9	104.00*	38.0
1972									

*Only for labor force in Manufacturing.

Source: Profile North Carolina Counties. Statistical Services Section, Budget Division.

PER CAPITA EXPENDITURES

RANKING OF PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME AND PER CAPITA EXPENDITURES BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FOR 1969-1970: NATIONAL AVERAGE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND SELECTED STATES

State	1970 Per Capita Personal Income		Total General Expenditures		Parks and Recreation Expenditures	
	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank	Amount	Rank
United States			\$646		\$ 9	
North Carolina	\$3,188*	40	\$464	50	\$ 3	46
Georgia	\$3,277	35	\$547	38	\$ 4	42
South Carolina	\$2,908	48	\$457	51	\$ 2	48
Virginia	\$3,586	28	\$522	44	\$10	13
New Jersey	\$4,539	6	\$604	28	\$10	14
New York	\$4,707	3	\$919	4	\$13	6
Ohio	\$3,983	15	\$535	40	\$ 9	18
Pennsylvania	\$3,893	17	\$597	30	\$ 9	20
Ten Lowest-spending States (Per Capital Expenditures)						
South Carolina	\$2,908	48	\$457	51	\$ 2	48
North Carolina	\$3,188	40	\$464	50	\$ 3	46
Arkansas	\$2,742	50	\$473	49	\$ 2	51
Tennessee	\$3,051	44	\$497	48	\$ 6	31
Texas	\$3,515	31	\$503	57	\$ 6	30
Alabama	\$2,828	49	\$505	46	\$ 4	41
Indiana	\$3,773	20	\$520	45	\$ 5	36
Virginia	\$3,586	28	\$522	44	\$10	13
Mississippi	\$2,561	51	\$524	43	\$ 2	50
Florida	\$3,584	42	\$528	52	\$11	10

NOTE: All numbers are round figures, and all rankings include District of Columbia. "Preliminary, April, 1971, Figure."

SOURCES: On Personal Income: Survey of Current Business, April, 1971, page 21.

On expenditures: Governmental Finances in 1971, pages 45-48.

FOOTNOTES

REVISED FOOTNOTES "NOW OR NEVER" PART A

1. Land Acquisition and Development Committee; State Parks Self-Study Program (Final Draft Report); December 16, 1971.
2. Citizens Committee for the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission Report; *Action for Outdoor Recreation for America*; Revised Edition, 1964; pg. 3.
3. Holmes, J. S. (State Forester); "Preliminary Report of Examination made September 22, 1933; N. C. State Park files (Smith Island); pg. 0.
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10. 1969 figures were compiled from replies of the various States to a survey questionnaire released by the N. C. Division of State Parks on October 31, 1969.
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23. *Loc. cit.*; *N. C. State Parks for the Future*; pg. 5 (20 acre standard). Other information compiled from the official 1970 census and updated "N. C. State Park Acreage Statistics"; (See Appendix "G").
24. *Ibid*; pgs. 5-6.

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